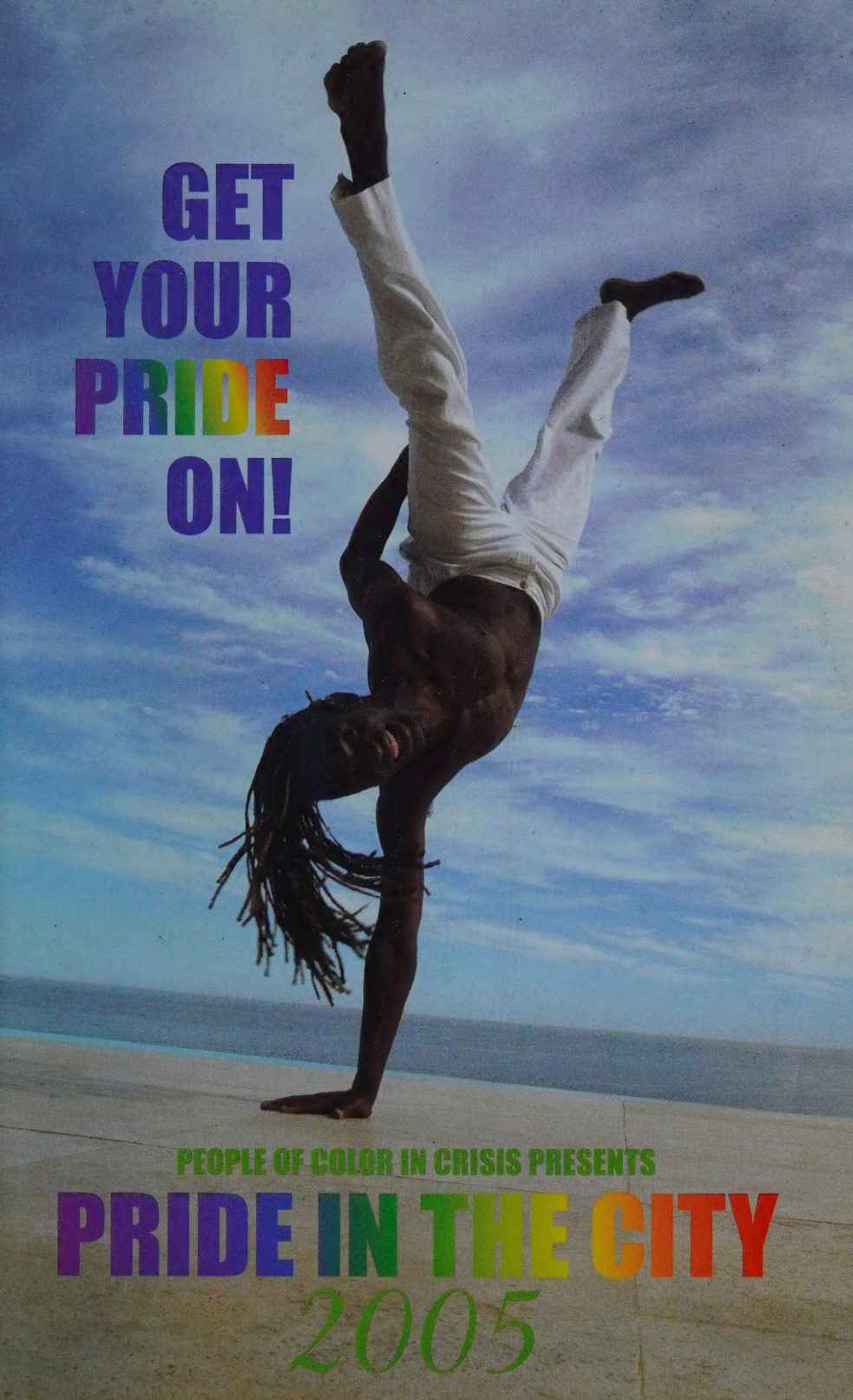

GET
YOUR
PRIDE
ON!
PEOPLE OF COLOR IN CRISIS PRESENTS
PRIDE IN THE CITY
2005

KNOW
HIV AIDS
KNOWING
IS BEAUTIFUL
LEARN ABOUT HIV TESTING AT 1.866.344.KNOW

Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

People of Color in Crisis (POCC) would like to extend a warm heartfelt welcome to all of New York City, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community and all supporters from across the country who are here to celebrate Pride in the City 2005.

This year's theme is Get Your Pride On to make sure that Prides are here to stay. Essentially, that means to be proud of who we are as a Black LGBT community and to make sure we take a stand. We're not invisible. Without your support, which is crucial, this Pride in the City would not be possible. It is a tremendous undertaking and a labor of love.

There are a lot of hard and fast months of planning and building for Pride in the City and I would like to give some shout-outs to the organizations, individuals and government entities that make this possible. I would like to thank the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Henry van Ameringen Foundation, The Paul Rapoport Foundation, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and New York Community Trust, just to name some of the many allies that continue, year after year, to support these incredible activities. Special thanks to you, the Black LGBT community for coming out to events that are exclusively for you, by you.

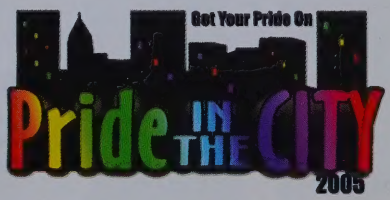
As it has been from Pride in the City's conception, HIV/STD counseling and testing will be available throughout our events this year. I urge everyone to check out these services. Unfortunately, in a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study the prevalence rate for HIV among adult Black men who have sex with men (MSM) was 46%. POCC and all of Pride in the City's partners are fighting to bring these numbers down. We need your support and your efforts in this struggle. We need you to be a soldier in this fight against HIV/AIDS in the Black LGBT community. Pride in the City is just one way for you to participate, to encourage friends and family to get tested, to have a great time and Get Your Pride On.

In closing, be safe and be careful. Make sure you take advantage of all the services available to you throughout Pride in the City 2005.

Yours Truly,

Gary English

Executive Director, POCC



PRIDE IN THE CITY 2005
Schedule of Events

Thursday – August 4

The Opening Celebration & Awards Night
7 – 10 pm
Featuring: Vivian Green
Brooklyn Marriott, 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn

Friday – August 5

The BlackOut Arts Series
5 – 11 pm
Brooklyn Marriott

Saturday – August 6

Family Day Picnic in the Park
Begins at 12 noon
Featuring: Deborah Cox,
Pepper MaShay and Nappy Grooves
Commodore Barry Park
Downtown Brooklyn, Navy Street
(off Tillary Street)

Special Screening:
The Aggressives
9 – 11pm
Brooklyn Marriott
$10 cash at the door

Sunday – August 7

The Beach Event
Begins at 12 noon
Featuring: Martha Wash and Jocelyn Brown
Jacob Riis Park Beach
Far Rockaway, Queens

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED
POCC 468 Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217
prideinthecity.com

Directions to the Events

The Opening Celebration & Awards Night (Thursday – August 4)
The BlackOut Arts Series (Friday – August 5)
Special Screening: The Aggressives (Saturday – August 6)

Brooklyn Marriott • 333 Adams Street, Brooklyn • Tel: (718) 246-7000

Subway: 2, 3, 4 and 5 to Borough Hall stop. M, N and R to Court Street stop. Exit the Subway and look for Borough Hall and the court building. The Marriott is on the other side behind the court building. A, C, and F (they are not as close). Walk down Jay Street to Borough Hall.

Driving: From La Guardia Airport – Grand Central Parkway west to the Brooklyn/Queens Expressway (BQE, I-278) to Tillary Street/Manhattan Bridge exit. Make a left turn at Adams Street and go to the second light. The hotel is on the left. Est. Taxi Fare: $25 (one way).

From JFK Airport – Belt Pkwy to the BQE, I-278 east; exit Atlantic Ave., turn right at the light. Go 4 blocks then left on Boerum Place. The hotel is 5 blocks on the right. Est. Taxi Fare: $45 (one way).

From Manhattan – Take Canal Street east across the Manhattan Bridge, which puts you onto the Flatbush Ave. Extension. Take a right onto Tillary. Then turn left onto Adams Street. Go to the 2nd light and the hotel is on the left.

Family Day Picnic in the Park (Saturday – August 6)

Commodore Barry Park
Downtown Brooklyn (off Tillary Street) Navy Street, North Elliot Place, Park Avenue & Flushing Avenue (Nassau St)

By Foot: Walk down Flatbush or Prince Street (car wash on the corner) towards the Manhattan Bridge. Turn right on Tillary Street. Stay to the right when you come to the ramp for the BQE (Brooklyn Queens Expressway) walk a half block and you can see the park on your left under the BQE ramp.

By Train: F Train – Take the F train to York Street, Brooklyn. Walk down York (2 blocks) to Navy Street.

N or R Train – Take the last car of the train to Dekalb Avenue, Brooklyn go right up the escalator. Exiting turnstile, go up the exit on the right to the street – Flatbush Avenue. Follow the "By Foot" above.

By Car: From Manhattan – come across the Manhattan Bridge (Canal Street west to Bridge). Less than 1/8 mile then go left on Tillary (if you get to Fulton Mall you've gone too far!) do NOT go up the BQE ramp – stay to the right. The park is on your left.

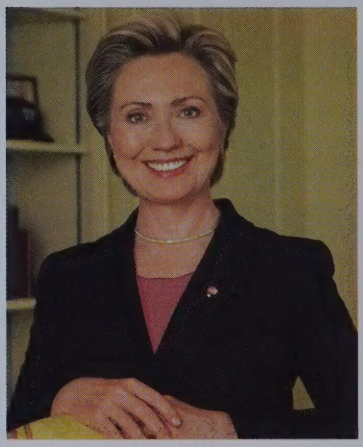
From Brooklyn – Take the BQE to Tillary exit – follow above. Or get onto Flatbush and head towards the Manhattan Bridge – when you can see the bridge look for Tillary – go right on Tillary the follow above.

The Beach Event (Sunday – August 7)

Jacob Riis Park
For additional instructions and directions to the beach:
Visitor Contact Station: 718-318-4300

By Subway/Bus: Take the 2 train to Flatbush Ave/Brooklyn College(last stop). On the corner of Nostrand Avenue (by Lorde's Bakery) take the Q35 Green Bus line to Fort Tilden and get off at Riis Beach stop. Pride in the City tents will be by the Baseball Field in Bay areas 1 & 2.

By Car: Take the Belt Parkway (Eastbound) (toll $1.75) and get off at Exit 11S Go over Marine Parkway Bridge (toll $2). Follow signs to Riis Beach.



August 7, 2005

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to send greetings to each of you participating in the Pride of the City 2005 celebrations of the People of Color in Crisis, Inc. (POCC).

POCC is a leading organization in disseminating information about HIV/AIDS prevention education and testing services. Your research initiatives are essential in the fight against HIV/AIDS and to communities of color. As you come together this weekend, you demonstrate your commitment to responding to the needs of the members of the black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This weekend not only celebrates New York's strength in its diversity, but reaffirms your commitment to promoting the ideals of equality and justice for all.

It is my hope that all of you continue your important work and advocacy. You have my best wishes for a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely yours,

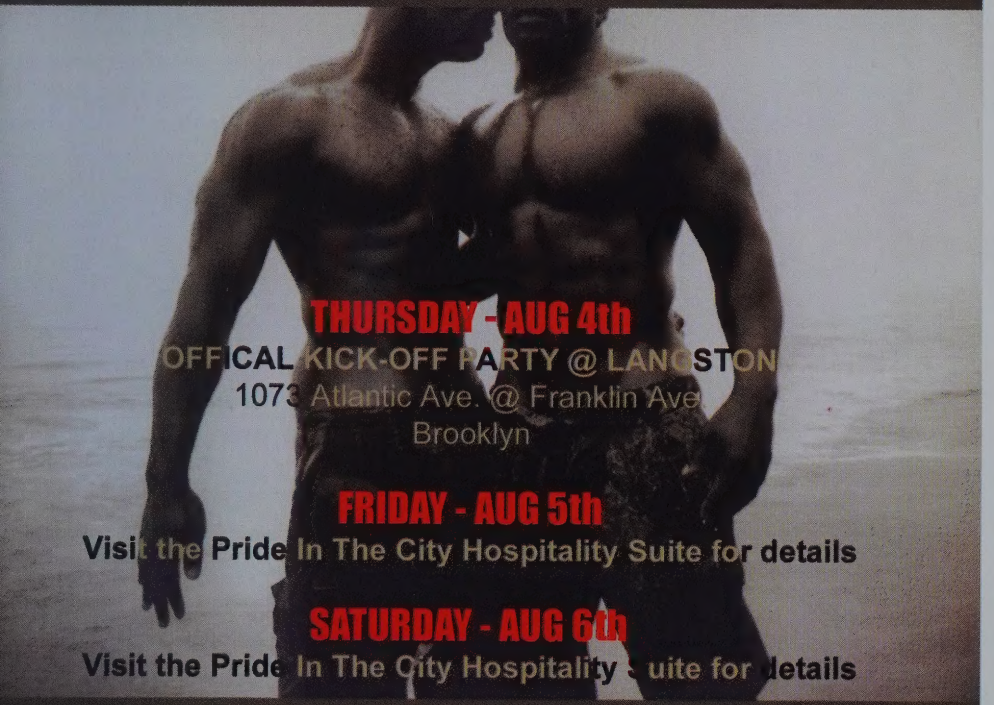
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator

Pride In The City 2005

Presents

THE OFFICIAL MEN'S PARTIES



THURSDAY - AUG 4th

OFFICAL KICK-OFF PARTY @ LANGSTON

1073 Atlantic Ave. @ Franklin Ave

Brooklyn

FRIDAY - AUG 5th

Visit the Pride In The City Hospitality Suite for details

SATURDAY - AUG 6th

Visit the Pride In The City Hospitality Suite for details

SUNDAY - AUG 7th

Fred Pierce Presents
Rhythm Sundays
@ Cattyshack
249 4th Avenue
(Btw. President & Carroll Sts.)
Park Slope, Brooklyn

The Chocolate Bar &
A Derrick L. Briggs Productions
Presents
TOUCH.
The Chocolate Bar, 8pm - Until
45 Waverly Avenue, Brooklyn
www.derricklbriggs.com

FOR EVENT TICKETS & DIRECTIONS: WWW.PRIDEINTHECITY.COM

POCC

in Assoc. with LoverGirlNYC & Exclusive Ent.

Pride IN THE CITY Ladies 2005

Thurs | Aug 4th Opening Celebration & Awards Night

Special Performance by Vivian Green

Brooklyn Marriott 333 Adams Street

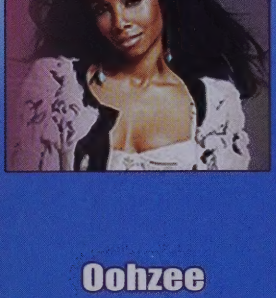
7pm - 9pm | VIP seating includes a post reception Meet & greet. VIP tickets are limited

VIP $60.00 | General $30.00

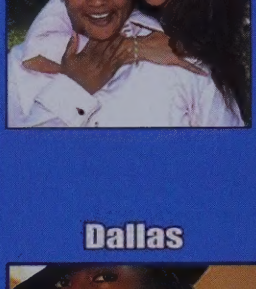
Tickets on sale now! @POCC 468 Bergen St Btwn. Flatbush/ 5th Ave. Bklyn | 718.230.0770

Exclusive II Salon 307 W.38th St (bet.8th/9th) 212.947.3976

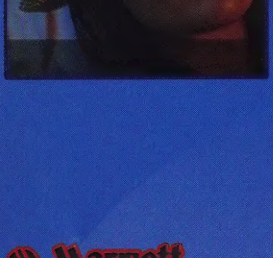
Vivian Green



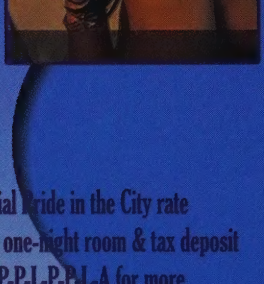
Conscious & Luz



Oohzee



Dallas



Star Struck Fri | Aug 5th

The OFFICIAL Women's PRIDE IN THE CITY PARTY

Star Nite CLub 246 Columbus Ave (btwn. 71st/72nd St) | 10pm - 4am

DJs Mary Mac & China

Meet & Greet Conscious Author of the deeply personal and inspirational Autobiography "Getting Unstuck"

Then Smokin' Gun OOHZEE & DALLAS fire it up with Erotic Performances

GET YOUR PRIDE ON! Sat | Aug 6th

NYC's HOTTEST Women's OFFICIAL Saturday Night PRIDE IN THE CITY PARTY

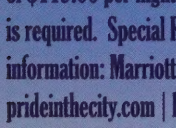
Club Shelter 20 West 39th Street (btwn. 5th/6th Aves) | 10PM - 5AM

DJs Missy B & Trini in the Red Carpet Room

DJs Mary Mac & Tease in the Underground

Spicy HOT DALLAS performs a tantalizing feature that heats up the senses & leaves you SWEATING!

Marriott



To secure your room at the special Pride in the City rate of $119.00 per night plus tax, a one-night room & tax deposit is required. Special Rate Code: P-P-L-P-P-L-A for more information: Marriott 718-246-7000

prideinthecity.com | lovergirlnyc.com | xclusive-ent.com

PRIDE IN THE CITY 2005 *Awards Celebration*

Leadership Through Arts and Entertainment – Dwight Powell

Presented by Dereck Wallace & Greg Douglas

Dwight Powell's many projects highlight the Black gay experience, increase communication in the community and build community presence. He is the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of Clikque Magazine, the nation's leading publication for and about SGL people of color. Founded in 1998 in Houston, Texas (now based in Miami), Clikque Magazine not only celebrates the beauty of gay black men, but also spreads the word about critical issues through articles over the year, the annual HIV issue and the National Black Pride issue. Noting the marked absence of an affirmation of the Black community in Miami, he created Sizzle, the Pride-like event of Miami. "For years I've attended various circuit events such as the White Party, Hot-Lanta and Winter Party. I remember often asking myself why such upscale events didn't exist in our community. Sizzle was born out of the need to bring together men from all over the country to a relaxing and fun-filled setting. Although many of us have lost loved ones to HIV/AIDS, it is important to remember that our identity is more than the negative stigmas associated with our sexual preference. We must rise up from the ruins, while dancing, and singing, to confirm our place among the living."

Dwight Powell was born in South Florida, but spent most of his younger years growing-up in the Bahamas. He graduated from Tallahassee Community College with an AA degree and Florida State University with a degree in Finance and Multi-national Business.

Young Adult Leadership Award – Richardo Antonio Jackson

Presented by Jeffrey Birnbaum, MD

Richardo Antonio Jackson is 25 years old and from Brooklyn by way of Jamaica. He currently attends Hostos Community College and will transfer to Hunter College in 2006 to pursue a degree in public health. He began doing HIV work in 2001 as a Peer Youth Advocate at the Health Education Alternatives for Teens Program (HEAT). Currently, he is the Outreach Coordinator and HIV test counselor at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Project Kiss. He is also the co-chair of the Young Men of Color Coalition Youth Conference Planning Committee led by POCC and the chair of the Youth Committee for the Central Harlem HIV Care Network and a Youth Leader within his church congregation. "I am very passionate about the work I do and the lives that I impact each and every day. I am motivated by personal reasons such as my friends who have passed and for those who are living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. I know that having HIV can be a lonely fight sometimes, but I want everyone to know that they don't have to stand alone. I am here and I have plans to be here as long as the Lord wants me to and there is a host of others, who are just as committed to fight against HIV/AIDS." In the future, he intends to open a transition program for formerly incarcerated youth, empowering and enabling them to move to the next level by giving them the skills needed to lead a successful and productive life.

Community Mobilization – Aisha Diori

Presented by Tyra Allure Maasai

Aisha Diori, Community Health Specialist Supervisor of the House of Latex Project (HOL), has worked in HIV prevention and education for over 7 years. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Fashion Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in Advertising Marketing Communication. Through the passion Aisha has for her community she uses her skills to integrate the world of social marketing

continued on page 10

with peer-driven, subculture-specific work at the HOL at GMHC. She does this work because "young people know AIDS is still a problem but it's kind of hidden. Too many take a 'see no evil' approach and are not taking it seriously. I am going to keep trying to make this issue serious through our continuous outreach efforts to the house and ball LGBTQ community." Aisha is the current mother of the House of Latex and a graduate of the TEACH program. Through TEACH, Aisha has created interventions that merge community input and presence into the mission of the program. She plans to create even more programs on a holistic level. She feels an ideal intervention speaks to different demographics; because all youth have different needs and personalities. In the future she plans on working on programs that address the psychosocial problems that lead to HIV infection with LGBTQ youth of color.

Advocacy through Arts and Entertainment Award – Conscious

Her self-published book went from selling out of boxes on the streets of New York City to becoming a major upcoming film starring rapper Eve on Showtime's Film Network. This woman is known simply as 'Conscious', author of the deeply personal and inspirational autobiography, GETTING UNSTUCK Girl-to-Girl You Can Be Infected Indeed.

Wealth, drug abuse, sexual abuse and finally, HIV punctuate Conscious' life journey. Yet she manages to deliver a powerful gripping story full of hope and triumph, a true inspiration and education in the consequences of a dark past. Told through a series of conversations between Conscious and her therapist at a drug rehabilitation facility, GETTING UNSTUCK finds Conscious recovering from a desperate battle with drugs, street life, and sexual identity crisis. Through her physical and emotional recovery and repressed memory, Conscious uncovers alarming events from her childhood that unlock the mystery of her troubled adolescence and adulthood to emerge a survivor. Conscious, a native of Harlem, New York currently residing in Miami Beach, Florida, is a true Jill-of-all-trades, having left her mark as an Electrical Engineering Blue Print Designer for Con Edison, the former Music Manager of The Queen Latifah Show, the Host of an Oxygen Media Network talk show, a bodyguard for celebrities, and now the producer of her upcoming film on Showtime.

Conscious' charisma has put her in high demand to speak to audiences throughout the country about HIV/AIDS awareness, protecting children from sexual predators, and drug rehabilitation. Larry Kennar's 'Code Entertainment', Eve and Troy Carter's 'Irving Wonder Productions' and Showtime Films Network are currently utilizing the film rights for GETTING UNSTUCK.

National Leadership Award – Ernest Hopkins

Presented by Leo B. Rennie

Ernest C. Hopkins received his BA in Political Science from Columbia College, Columbia University. Currently, he works as Director of Federal Affairs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. He has also served as Director of Health and Treatment at the National Association of People with AIDS and the Chair of Communities Emergency AIDS Relief in Washington, DC. He is an active member of many boards including the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National AIDS Housing Coalition. Mr. Hopkins has committed his time in the Black gay community by being involved in the Black Gay Men's Mobilization Initiative, co-founding the DC Black Pride and serving as a member of the African American AIDS Policy Workgroup which worked with the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressional Appropriators and the Clinton Administration to establish the Minority AIDS Initiative. Mr. Hopkins is a member of the Black Gay Research Group because he feels that as a Black Gay man

who works in a white environment, he knows that Black Gay men are frequently the catalysts for extraordinary activities in society. "I love to be a part of the beginning of new and innovative action that serves to promote positive energy in the Black community."

John Michael Harrington Legacy Award – Charles King accepting in honor and memory of Keith D. Cylar

Presented by Nathan Kerr

Keith was one of the founders and Co-President and Co-CEO of Housing Works, Inc. His masters in social work, together with his many years as an advocate for homeless people living with AIDS, served him well as a member of various social change organizations: on the federal level – the CAEAR Coalition (Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief), National AIDS Housing Coalition, the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS and the National Harm Reduction Coalition; the Statewide AIDS Services Delivery Consortium (SASDAC) and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP); and in NYC – the Ryan White Planning Council and HOPWA Advisory Board. He was a strong advocate for harm reduction. Keith worked as researcher for the Rand Corporation on the first major research effort to collect information on a nationally representative sample of people in care for HIV infection, and served on the boards of the Harm Reduction Coalition and the National AIDS Housing Coalition, and was an active member of Act-Up New York (1987-1995).

Posthumously, Keith has been honored with several awards, including the 2004 AIDS Warrior Award in October of 2004 by The NYC AIDS Housing Network, The Keith Cylar National Activist Award – awarded December 5, 2004 by the CAEAR Coalition, The Bayard Rustin Award for Courage, awarded April 16, 2005, The Vanguard Awards presented in his memory on July 16, 2005 by NYAC, and the Organizational Excellence Award presented by NAPWA on January 18, 2005. On Tuesday, April 12, 2005, the New York City Council unanimously passed the Keith Cylar Act, an act that ensures accountability and protection for tens of thousands of indigent New York City residents living with AIDS.

Community Ally Award – Speaker Gifford Miller

Presented by Torrance Allen

A lifelong New Yorker, Gifford Miller is dedicated to the people and communities that set this city apart. Growing up in a family committed to community service, Miller has always known that New York's greatest strength comes from the people and families who call it home. Energetic and dedicated, as Speaker of the City Council, Gifford Miller has proven he can get results. As City Council Speaker, Gifford Miller saw that City Hall could do more for New Yorkers, so he delivered innovative solutions. Miller created the city's first Earned Income Tax Credit to help lift thousands of families out of poverty, required hospitals to provide emergency contraception to sexual assault victims, and brought a living wage to 50,000 workers. Thanks to Miller's leadership, New York City now provides school nurses to more city students, protects children from the hazards of lead paint poisoning, and requires cleaner air through reduced diesel emissions. After serving as Chief of Staff for New York Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Gifford Miller ran for City Council in 1996. By upsetting a veteran Republican, Miller became New York's youngest city council member. Miller quickly established himself as a rising star, passing laws to reduce noise, increase voter participation and protect the environment – and handily winning re-election 4 times. In January 2002, Miller was elected Speaker of the City Council, winning the unanimous support of his colleagues – elected officials from every neighborhood in the city, Republicans and Democrats alike.

August 7, 2005

Dear Friends:

It is an honor and pleasure to join all those attending the People of Color in Crisis, Inc. (POCC) Pride in the City 2005 Celebration.

As a positive community experience, today's celebration marks an important event in the African American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The POCC provides needed HIV prevention education and counseling services geared toward educating substantial numbers of community members. I applaud the POCC community for their dedicated and passionate efforts and wish them even greater success with each coming year's Pride in the City event.

I would once again like to congratulate the People of Color in Crisis, Inc. for their unwavering commitment to educating the community and send all of its members my best wishes for such a moving celebration.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress

Life Force

* *

Congratulations to the Board Of Directors,
Executive Director, Gary English and
the Staff of People of Color in Crisis
for their continued service to Brooklyn communities.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Salutes You!

Gwen Carter
Executive Director
(718) 797-0937

* *

POCC

Health • Advocacy • Community

468 Bergen Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Tel: 718.230.0770 TTY: 718.230.5778
www.POCC.org

Drop-In Center
A safe and secure space to hang out and interact.

Man Men, Many Voices (3MV)
An interactive series that looks at our lives as Black gay men, the choices we make, and how they play into our risk for HIV.

Outreach Services
We come to you so you can learn about our many services.

Confidential HIV Testing
Free HIV testing. Get tested.
Know your status!

Young Men of Color Coalition (YMCC)
A consortium of New York City agencies collectively improving ways of serving Black and Latino young men who have sex with men.

Things of That Nature
A weekly forum for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth of color and their friends, to discuss their issues and concerns. Join us and let's be real about it! Ages 16 to 24.

Access
Providing individual assistance in connecting community members to health care, social services and benefits.

Black Gay Research Group
A collective of Black gay researchers and service providers committed to ensuring that the stories of our lives are told.
www.blackgayresearch.org

Brotha's Rap
A weekly, social support group, for Black gay men of all ages living with HIV or AIDS. Join us to discuss dating, sex and healthy living.

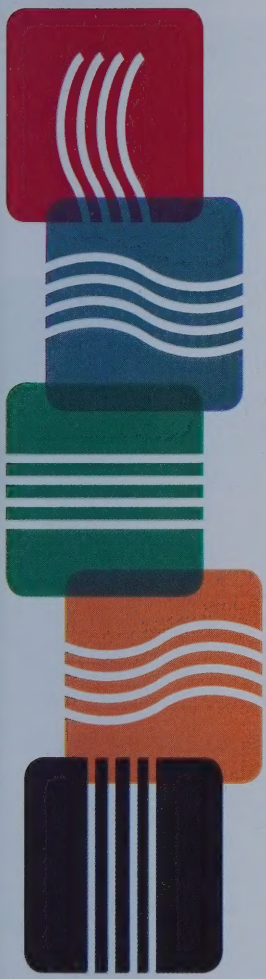
Computer Lab
A bank of computers for checking e-mail, surfing the web and light word processing.

Sanctuary: A Gathering of Black Male Couples
A monthly couples group, discussing everything from romance to finances and fidelity, and provides men who love each other with the tools to maintain and elevate in love.

Pride In The City
A four-day summer celebration of the lives of all Black gay, bisexual, lesbian, transgender and questioning people.
www.PrideInTheCity.com

The Federation of Ballroom Houses
A coalition of Houses from the New York metropolitan area seeking to address the many disparities impacting the lives of Black and Latino, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ball community members.

Brutha4Brutha.com
A hot, safer sex site dedicated to promoting the sexual health of men of color who have sex with men. Brutha4Brutha provides information and resources in a neutral, non-threatening space. www.Brutha4Brutha.com



BLACKOUT
ARTS SERIES 2005

THE 5 ELEMENTS

08.05.05

BLACKOUT
ARTS SERIES **2005**

THE 5 ELEMENTS

The Brooklyn Marriott
Legends Rooms
333 Adams Street

08.05.05
5 - 11p

Reception | 5 - 5:30p
Refreshments. Cash Bar.

PRESENTING:

PHOENIX RISING
Fashion Artistry by
Derek Prada &
Bernie Jourdan Karan

Pride In The City 2005
People of Color in Crisis, Inc.
www.prideinthecity.com
www.pocc.org

Pride IN THE CITY

PAINTINGS
Armisey Smith | *Pure Light*
Charly | *Love Letter to My Exes*

PHOTOGRAPHY
Greg McNeal | *Guardian*
Bernard Morisset | *Intimate*
Sean Stefan Tonio | *Elevation*

VIDEO INSTALLATION
Odie Rynell Cash | *Approaching*

WRITTEN WORD
Conscious | *Getting Unstuck*
Stephanie Adams | *GODDESSY for EMPRESS*
O'Brien Dennis | *The Cries of Men*
Frederick Smith | *Down For Whatever*
Think Again 2 | *Dancin' The Down Low*

MAURICE JAMAL PRESENTS: New Black Gay Films
Maurice Jamal | *Dirty Laundry*
Debra Wilson | *Jumping The Broom*
Luther Mace | *On The Low*
Couquie Hughes | *Did I Just Look At Her?*
Kenneth Jackson | *Just Between Us*
&
THE WIZ: An Interactive Experience

OFF RHYME CENTER
Spoken Word

Open Mic Showcasing:
Poets | Lyricists | Singers | Vocal Linguists | Whisperers

SPECIAL GUEST MC: ButtaFlySoul

FIRST COME. FIRST SPIT.
(4 min. limit)

The Artists

Underneath it all, at the core of everything, in the place where balance exists, there are five elements that bind. *Fire, water, earth,* and *air* are the elements we see daily, but the fifth element – the greatest of these – is the least seen, shown, and/or discussed... *supreme being/love.* BlackOut Arts Series 2005 is dedicated to the five elements, honoring the ancient properties of *fire* in design, *water* in art, *earth* in writing, *air* in film, and most importantly, *love* in and as spoken word. Come share your elements with us...

Phoenix Rising (Design Exhibition)

Phoenix Rising is the lava-like runway exhibition that celebrates the birth of new ideas, and the artistry of legendary ball icons, Derek Prada and Bernie Jourdan Karan. Derek, the innovative international stylist from Brooklyn, and Bernie, the luminary artist from New Jersey, are sure to deliver a volcanic experience.

Armisey Smith (Pure Light)

Armisey Smith grew up in the Breukelen Houses in Canarsie. Armisey's interest in art stemmed from her beloved mother. Armisey believed she had an aptitude for creating art, but did not take it serious until her junior year in High School where she applied and was accepted to one of the top design schools in the country; Parsons School of Design. Armisey graduated in May 1995 with a BFA in Illustration. Her work led her to social services, utilizing art as an intervention for youth at the Hetrick-Martin Institute. Most of Armisey's work reflected complex lesbian relationships between women of color and how those relationships are beautiful by nature, but bereft with internalized oppression. Her current work embodies the struggles regarding the passing of her beloved mother and understanding the paradoxical relationship between loss, renewal and light. Ms. Smith is a recent graduate of Pratt Institute with a M.P.S in Arts and Cultural Management.

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Charly (Love Letter to My Exes)

A 24-year-old artist and community activist, Charly currently drops other labels of identity while reinventing and re-exploring self. Current projects are inspired by his childhood and adolescent experiences. Representing the element of love, his series named "Love Letter to My Exes", captures the trials, tribulations, joys and pains in male-to-male relationships. His upcoming film/performance show, "Faces of a Rebel", shows his many faces through different characters that animate and exaggerate different experiences growing up as a young person with many dimensions. It's one way of summing up childhood until now.

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The Artists

Greg McNeal (Guardian)

Greg McNeal was born in a small town on the Tennessee-Kentucky border in 1965, and moved to Los Angeles in the early 90's. At an early age he became inspired to teach himself the art of photography. Disturbed by the stereotypical images of the black male (perpetuated by the media and the world around him), Greg chose the African-American male as the primary focus for his lens; seeking to bring reality, truth, and vision to his new-found craft. The result: a series of evocative images that challenge, excite, and inspire.

Greg's photography is celebrated for its positive depiction of the modern black male. In July 2000, he was chosen as the photojournalist to cover the XXIII International Conference on HIV and AIDS, in Durban, South Africa. In addition, he has shot a series of projects for The African-American AIDS Policy and Training Institute (AAAPTI) and other organizations including STOP AIDS, Minority AIDS Project, Spectrum & Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science.

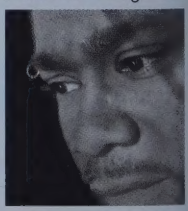
Greg has just premiered a new series of powerful black male portraits entitled, "The Lost Legends Series". www.gregmcneal.com

Bernard Morisset (Intimate)

Through his male nude photography Bernard explores male sensuality and sexuality. He photographs from an emotional place and wants his photographs to reflect that. Like a painter who doesn't know what the finished painting will look like, each brush stroke is critical to the final image. His photographs are his brushstrokes. Who knows when the final masterpiece will be born?

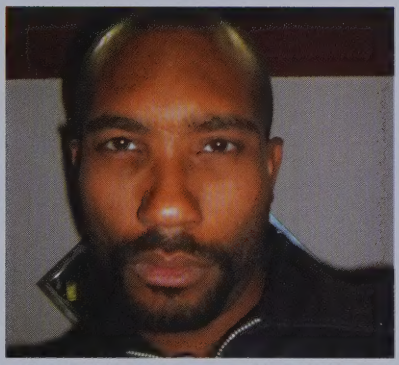
Bernard Morisset is a Haitian-American photographer currently living in Brooklyn. He is the founder and President of the Fort Greene Photography Organization and a National Press Photographer's Association member. www.musecube.com/nycphotographe; email at studio2sixteen@aol.com

Sean Stefan Tonio (Elevation)



A true native child of New York City, Sean Stefan Tonio draws influences for his creative work from everywhere. Born in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, and growing up and attending schools in Greenwich Village and Chelsea, he has been from "the penthouse of the palace, to the gutter of the ghetto". He can call upon a mixture of formal training from the Computer Instruction department of one of the East Coast's most prestigious design schools, and self-taught skills and real world work experience, including teaching computer design classes. Stefan Tonio deeply enjoys the expressions and challenges of working across the different areas of graphic design, photography, web design, and soon clothing design and music production, with a style that ranges from classic, sleek, and minimal, to hip, frenetic, and modern.

Odie Rynell Cash (Approaching)



Odie Rynell Cash works in the mediums of video, digital imagery, installation/interventions, collecting/drawing and actions in public. His work is concerned with a variety of issues from the political to the mundane, simplicity, repetition and anticipation. His 2005 schedule includes a solo exhibition with Polvo Art Studio, Chicago and a residency with Factor44, Antwerp, Belgium. Previously he has been included in international exhibitions such as Coordinates of the Supersensible at High Street Projects (New Zealand), Text Associations (solo) Factor44 (Antwerp, Belgium), eKsperim[E]nto Film and Video Festival, (Manila, Philippines), and was selected for the 2004-2006 Drawing Centers Viewing Program (New York). Cash is an independent curator of work dealing with social issues and/or the examination of experimental practices. www.geocities.com/orc_work.

Conscious (Getting Unstuck)

This woman is known simply as 'Conscious', author of the deeply personal and inspirational autobiography, Getting Unstuck: Girl-to-Girl, You Can Be Infected Indeed. Getting Unstuck finds Conscious recovering from a desperate battle with drugs, street life, and sexual identity crisis. Through her physical and emotional recovery and repressed memory, Conscious uncovers alarming events from her childhood that unlock the mystery of her troubled adolescence and adulthood.

Conscious has been speaking throughout the country about HIV/AIDS awareness, protecting children from sexual predators, and drug rehabilitation. Code Entertainment, Irving Wonder Production's and Showtime Films Network are currently utilizing the film rights for Getting Unstuck. Conscious, a native of Harlem, now resides in Miami Beach.

Stephanie Adams (GODDESSY for EMPRESS)

Stephanie Adams is the first Playboy Centerfold to come "out" as a lesbian, in addition to writing a series of more than a dozen books published about astrology, new age, spirituality and metaphysics. She is also the founder of Sapphica.com and GODDESSY.com. Stephanie has been featured in and on the cover of publications, including Bazaar, Cosmopolitan, ELLE, She Magazine, Curve, GO NYC, Next, The Weekly News, DIVA, The Advocate, Elegantly L Magazine, New York Observer and Time Out New York.

She has appeared on numerous TV networks, in addition to hosting Playboy TV, and has made special guest appearances for gay & lesbian organizations such as BPNYC, Femme To Femme, Heritage Of Pride (HOP), In Our Own Write (Literary Group), Moonfire Women's Empowerment & Spirituality Network, Playboy Enterprises, Inc. and Women's Alliance. Articles have been written about Stephanie online and in newspapers including the Daily News, New York Post, New York Newsday and many more.

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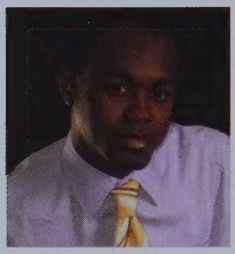
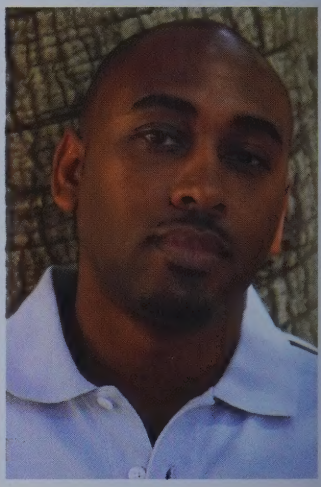
The Artists



O'Brien Dennis (The Cries of Men)

O'Brien Dennis is the author of The Cries of Men: Voices of Jamaican Men Who Have Been Raped & Sexually Abused. O'Brien was born in Jamaica where he was a victim of sexual abuse. As a survivor, Dennis now splits time between homes in New York and Massachusetts. He holds a B.A in African History and International Relations from the University of the West Indies, Mona.

Frederick Smith (Down For Whatever)



Can four twenty-something friends find true love in a city where Black, Latin, and Gay Pride collide? Keith is the glue of the group. He grew up in Detroit with Tommie, who sang at Keith's father's church. Keith and Marco Antonio met while students at Stanford. Keith and Marco Antonio pick up Rafael along the way to complete the clique. All four are gay, bi, down, same gender-loving, take your pick. They encounter the L.A. scene in a way that makes their humanity shine and you realize their stories are human stories, only supplemented by the labels they choose to identify as.

Born and raised in Detroit, Frederick Smith is a graduate of The Missouri School of Journalism and Loyola University Chicago. A finalist for the 2004 PEN Center Emerging Voices Fellowship and a member of the 2004 VONA (Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, University of San Francisco) novel seminar, Fred is an advocate for social justice and equality issues. He currently lives in the Los Angeles area. Down for Whatever is his first novel. www.fredericksmith.net.

Think Again 2 (Dancin' the Down Low)

"Think Again 2" is a critical collection of essays addressing contemporary concerns around sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and black men. Co-published by the New York State Black Gay Network, The Black AIDS Institute, AIDS Project Los Angeles, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and the National Black Justice Coalition, this collection features new work from writers such as Tim'm West, Reginald Harris, Thomas Glave, E. Patrick Johnson, Jason King, and David Malebranche, among others. The anthology is co-edited and introduced by writers Frank Leon Roberts and Marvin K. White.

Frank Leon Roberts, age 22, received both his B.A. in Comparative Literature and Philosophy and M.A. in Performance Studies Magma Cum Laude from NYU where he is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the humanities. His essays on black politics & popular culture have appeared in The San Francisco Chronicle, Vibe, and Pacific News, among others. He lives in Harlem.

Marvin K. White, is author of two LAMBDA Literary Award nominated collections of poetry, Nothin' Ugly Fly (Redbone Press 2004) and Last Rights (Redbone Press 2004). He is a poet, performer, playwright, visual artist as well as a community arts organizer. He is a former member of PomoAfroHomos.

Maurice Jamal Presents: New Black Gay Films

Maurice Jamal (Dirty Laundry) Maurice Jamal believes the impossible is possible! In January 2004, armed solely with this belief and a revolutionary script, Jamal set out to produce and direct his first feature film, The Ski Trip. With only $10,000 he created a great feature-length film that neither looked nor felt like a micro-budgeted project. In less than a year, he completed the film and signed a historic deal with MTV Networks/LOGO, which will make The Ski Trip the first truly black gay movie on American television.

His second film, Dirty Laundry, is a daring comedy about family drama, identity and coming out, starring Loretta Devine, Sommore and Sheryl Lee Ralph. Often referred to as a Black, gay Woody Allen, Jamal's bold, brazen, yet infectious persona is directly reflected in his art.

For the past two seasons he has acted and worked on the directing team for the acclaimed hit, Chappelle's Show. Some of his other television credits include Third Watch, Make My Day and Comedy Central Roasts! Denis Leary. He has worked on big budget and award-winning films, such as, Spider-Man, A Beautiful Mind, The Guys and Kate & Leopold.

Classically trained, Jamal is a founding actor of the African-American Shakespeare Company as well as The National Black Actors' Group. Maurice Jamal lives in Brooklyn, New York where he founded the Urban Arts Collective, which produces films from young, queer, urban filmmakers. He also supports other young LGBT filmmakers as the founder of the New York Black Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

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The Artists

Debra Wilson (Jumping The Broom) Debra Wilson is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, whose newest film is Jumpin' the Broom: The New Covenant, in which African American LGBT couples discuss their relationships in light of the gay marriage movement. In 2001, she received honorable mention from the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame for her first short documentary NIA: A Gathering of Our Sisterhood.

Debra was granted completion funds in 2002 from Horizons/Frameline Foundation for Butch Mystique, which went on to garner awards, including Best Short/Audience Award in the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and the Showtime Black Filmmaker's Award. Butch Mystique explores the identity shared by self-proclaimed butch women, in their own words, and offers important historical and socio-political commentary of that sub-culture.

A native of California, she has worked in the film industry for 15 years in a variety of roles, including Talent Coordinator where she recruited for CBS NEWS, FOX News and Disney. She also worked as Casting Assistant at Reuben Cannon and Associates in Los Angeles. Debra earned a B.A. in Television Film Production at Cal-State University Northridge. She is president of Moyo Entertainment Inc., and was Director of Programming for the 2003 Oakland International Black Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

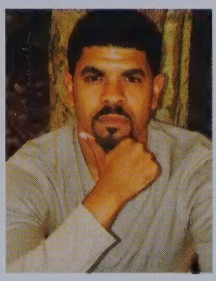
Luther Mace (On The Low) Born and raised in Spanish Harlem, a hard-knocks area of New York City, Luther Mace knows first hand what it's like to grow up in a machismo environment in which homosexuality is not widely accepted. "I've spent so many years fighting the inevitable because I knew I'd be ostracized by everybody around me," contends Mace. "In fact, this (film) is ripped right out of my personal journal. I know what it's like to keep a relationship a secret because other people finding out could have dire emotional consequences."

"On The Low" tells the story of a young man, Ty Evans, coming to terms with his sexuality and the inner conflict he experiences. The true extent of Ty's relationship with his classmate, Kevin Banks, begins to trouble him when the boys get into a schoolyard-shoving match. As the tension between them escalates, Ty realizes what began as innocent curiosity and experimentation has blossomed into a deeper infatuation. He recognizes that the only way to come to terms with his feelings is to admit to Kevin that he's in love with him.

Couquie Hughes (Did I Just Look at Her?) Couquie Hughes is a Chicago-based filmmaker, whom specializes in using video and new media arts. Her films explore not only lesbian themes, but sexuality in general. She mixes both drama and comedy with great results.

DID I JUST LOOK AT HER is a comedy about a straight woman's fantasy about a gay woman. At a dinner party hosted by a gay couple, a group of sexually diverse friends are confronted by the thoughts and stereotypes that each one holds. The film is raw, hilarious, energetic and will leave you smiling for days.

Kenneth Jackson (Just Between Us) Ken Jackson is a native of Detroit, Michigan, who now resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Initially, Ken's desire was to be an author, following in the footsteps of acclaimed author, E. Lynn Harris, who pioneered the way for African-American gay writers to express themselves and when he wrote two books, "Colorful Matters," and "Reconcilable Sacrifices," in nine months which he self published with Authorhouse and Xlibris, Ken then sought to expand his horizons through filmmaking by creating a production company.



In the summer of 2004, Ken began pre-production on his feature film, "Bottoms Up" as writer, director and producer. With another script titled, an adaptation of his book, "Colorful Matters," already complete, Ken's ultimate goal is to bring his books to the big screen as full features some time in 2006. However, prior to this, Ken filmed, produced, directed and edited a documentary, "The D.L Factor," which is a candid conversation about the popular topic down low brothers, living duplicitous lives having sex with men and women and still calling themselves straight by all accounts, and a short feature called, "A Cigarette Moment," detailing the sexual frustration one woman faces in her marriage.

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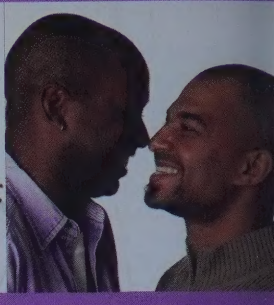

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HIV Prevalence, Unrecognized Infection, and HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men – Five U.S. Cities, June 2004-April 2005

Well into the third decade of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic, rates of HIV infection remain high, especially among minority populations. Of newly diagnosed HIV infections in the United States during 2003, CDC estimated that approximately 63% were among men who were infected through sexual contact with other men, 50% were among blacks, 32% were among whites, and 16% were among Hispanics (1). Studies of HIV infection among young men who have sex with men (MSM) in the mid to late 1990s revealed high rates of HIV prevalence, incidence, and unrecognized infection, particularly among young black MSM (2--4). To reassess those findings and previous HIV testing behaviors among MSM, CDC analyzed data from five of 17 cities participating in the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) system. This report summarizes preliminary findings from the HIV-testing component of NHBS, which indicated that, of MSM surveyed, 25% were infected with HIV, and 48% of those infected were unaware of their infection. To decrease HIV transmission, MSM should be encouraged to receive an HIV test at least annually, and prevention programs should improve means of reaching persons unaware of their HIV status, especially those in populations disproportionately at risk.

NHBS is an ongoing behavioral surveillance system that collects cross-sectional data among populations at high risk for acquiring HIV, including MSM, injection-drug users, and heterosexuals at high risk. Men aged >18 years were sampled systematically from randomly selected venues where MSM congregated (e.g., bars/clubs, organizations, and street locations). Formative research was conducted to identify venues and days and times when MSM frequented these venues (2--4). Men eligible for the survey were aged >18 years and residents of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Using a standardized questionnaire, men were interviewed about their sexual and drug-use behaviors, HIV-testing behavior, and use of HIV-prevention services. During June 2004--April 2005, participants in five NHBS cities (Baltimore, Maryland; Los Angeles, California; Miami, Florida; New York, New York; and San Francisco, California) were also tested for HIV infection after informed consent.

The OraQuick® rapid test or an enzyme immunoassay (EIA) was used to screen blood specimens for HIV antibody, and initially reactive specimens were tested by Western blot for confirmation. To estimate HIV incidence, CDC used a serologic testing algorithm for recent HIV seroconversion (STARHS) (5). Specimens that were confirmed positive were tested further with the Vironostika-Less Sensitive (LS) EIA, which detects HIV infection approximately 170 days after initial infection by using a 1.0 standard optical density cutoff (95% confidence interval [CI] = 145--200 days) (6). A specimen confirmed positive by Western blot and nonreactive on the Vironostika-LS assay was categorized as an incident infection. Persons self-reporting a previous positive test result and HIV-positive participants reporting use of antiretroviral therapy were excluded from the incidence estimate.

Participants were asked about the date and result of their most recent HIV test before having their blood drawn as part of NHBS. Men who had not been tested during the preceding year were asked about their reasons for not being tested. MSM with unrecognized infection were defined as those who reported being HIV negative, indeterminate, or not knowing their HIV status, but who tested HIV positive at the time of their interview. Prevalence ratios and 95% CIs were calculated to evaluate characteristics associated with testing during the preceding year. Differences in reasons for not testing between HIV-negative MSM and MSM with unrecognized infection were assessed by using chi-square tests ($p<0.05$).

In the five cities, 2,261 men sampled from 258 venues participated in NHBS. The participation rate among eligible men was 83% (range by city: 69%--99%). A total of 1,767 (78%) were men who had one or more male sex partners and agreed to the survey, HIV test, and STARHS test (range by city: 222--462). Of these 1,767 participants, the median age was 32 years (range: 18--81 years); 35% were white, 27% Hispanic, 25% black, 7% multiracial/other, and 6% Asian/Pacific Islander. Participants were recruited at bars (30%), street locations (20%), dance clubs (19%), cafes/retail stores (10%), Gay Pride events (6%),

social organizations (5%), gyms (5%), sex establishments (3%), and parks (1%).

Of the 1,767 MSM, 450 (25%) tested positive for HIV (range by city: 18%--40%). HIV prevalence was 46% among blacks, 21% among whites, and 17% among Hispanics. A total of 340 (76%) of those who were HIV positive were aged >30 years (Table 1). Of the 449 HIV-antibody--positive specimens tested by Vironostika-LS, 80 were nonreactive; of these, 31 were considered incident infections, and 49 were excluded from the incidence estimate. HIV incidence among MSM by city was as follows: Baltimore, 8.0% (95% CI = 4.2%--11.8%); Los Angeles, 1.4% (95% CI = 0.0%--2.9%); Miami, 2.6% (95% CI = 0.0%--5.6%); New York City, 2.3% (95% CI = 0.28%--4.2%); and San Francisco, 1.2% (95% CI = 0.0%--2.6%).

Of the 450 HIV-infected MSM, 217 (48%) were unaware of their HIV infections. The proportion of unrecognized HIV infection was highest among MSM who were aged <30 years, nonwhite, and surveyed in the four cities other than San Francisco (Table 1). Of the 217 MSM with unrecognized HIV infections, 64% were black, 18% Hispanic, 11% white, and 6% multiracial/other. The majority (184 [84%]) of the 217 MSM with unrecognized HIV infection had previously been tested for HIV; 145 (79%) reported that their most recent test result was negative, 33 (18%) were unknown, and six (3%) were indeterminate. Approximately 58% of MSM with unrecognized infections had not been tested during the preceding year. Compared with MSM who were HIV negative, proportionally more MSM with unrecognized infections had not been tested during the preceding year because they were afraid of learning they had HIV (34% versus 68%; $p<0.0001$) and were worried others would find out the result (14% versus 35%; $p<0.0001$) (Figure).

Nearly all participants (92%) reported previously being tested for HIV, and 64% reported being tested during the preceding year. MSM were more likely to have been tested during the preceding year if they had visited a health-care provider and their provider recommended an HIV test (Table 2). Sexual and drug-use behaviors were not associated with testing during the preceding year.

Reported by: F Sifakis, PhD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore; CP Flynn, ScM, Maryland Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene. L Metsch, PhD, Univ of Miami; M LaLota, MPH, Florida Dept of Health. C Murrill, PhD, New York City Dept of Health; BA Koblin, PhD, New York Blood Center, New York. T Bingham, MPH, Los Angeles County Dept of Health Svcs; W McFarland, MD, H Raymond, San Francisco Dept of Public Health, California. S Behel, MPH, A Lansky, PhD, B Byers, PhD, D MacKellar, MPH, A Drake, MPH, K Gallagher, DSc, Div of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

Consistent with previous studies of young MSM conducted in the same cities using similar sampling methods (2--4,7,8), this study revealed that 1) prevalence and incidence of HIV infection in this population were high; 2) many HIV-infected MSM, particularly younger and black MSM, were unaware they were HIV-infected; and 3) among MSM with unrecognized infection, nearly half presumably acquired HIV during the preceding year, and many had not been tested recently because of fears of testing positive. These findings underscore the need to increase testing and improve primary prevention practices for MSM.

Although a majority of MSM had been tested during the preceding year, more than half with unrecognized infections had not had an annual test. The results of this study support CDC guidelines recommending at least annual testing for sexually active MSM (8), especially among younger MSM and minority populations (7).

The findings in this report are subject to at least four limitations. First, the date of a participant's most recent HIV test is self-reported and might be subject to reporting inaccuracies. Second, given the

continued on page 58

Many Men Many Voices

AS A BLACK GAY MAN...

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Youth Dance (8:30-12am @ Muther's)

August 10th
Open Mic & Spoken Word Event (6-8pm @ Spot Café)

August 11th
Beyond the Color Lines: Racism in the Gay Community
(6-9pm @ Unity Health System)

August 12th
Heart of MOCHA Awards Ceremony & Jazz Reception
(6-9pm @ Hyatt Regency Hotel)

August 13th
Community Awareness Picnic
(12-6pm @ Genesee Valley Park Red Creek Pavillion)

White Attire Affair Party (9-3am @ Muther's)

August 14th
Faith Service at Lake Ave. Baptist Church
(2-4pm @ 70 Ambrose St)

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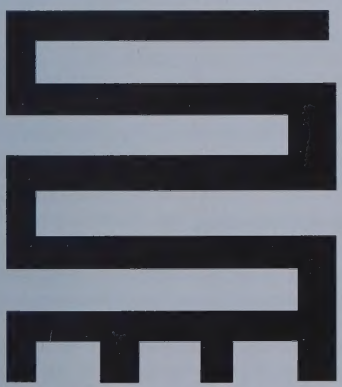

MOCHA Week 2005

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www.truvada.com

INDICATION: TRUVADA is for use in combination with other anti-HIV agents to treat HIV infection in adults. TRUVADA contains two medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), combined in one tablet.

- EMTRIVA and VIREAD have each been studied separately. Clinical studies with TRUVADA or using EMTRIVA+VIREAD are ongoing
- Since EMTRIVA and Epivir® (3TC) are similar medicines, studies using VIREAD+3TC support the use of TRUVADA
- TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection. No studies show the effect of TRUVADA on the clinical progression of HIV. TRUVADA should not be used as part of a triple nucleoside regimen

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

- **Lactic acidosis** (a buildup of acid in the blood) can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if** you have nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness
- **Serious liver problems** (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis), may occur. **Call your healthcare provider right away if** you have light colored stools, dark colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow

- **Flare-ups of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection:** If you have HIV and HBV, your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA unless directed by your healthcare provider
- **Kidney problems:** If you have had kidney problems or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys
- **Bone changes:** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA causes damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, talk to your healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA

Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV medicines. The most common side effects of TRUVADA when taken with other anti-HIV medicines are dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (spots and freckles) may also occur.

Discuss all medicines you take with your healthcare provider and be aware:

- **TRUVADA should not be used with Combivir®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom™, Trizivir®, or VIREAD**
- Your healthcare provider may need to follow you more closely or adjust your therapy if you are taking Videx®, Videx EC®, Reyataz® or Kaletra® with TRUVADA

For more information, please visit **www.truvada.com** or call **1-800-GILEAD-5 (1-800-445-3235)** and select option 2.
There is additional information about TRUVADA on the next page.

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GILEAD

Patient Information

TRUVADA® (tru-VAH-dah) Tablets

Generic name: emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
(em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU-mar-ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with TRUVADA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about TRUVADA.

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?

- **Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA (nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis.**
  - You feel very weak or tired.
  - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
  - You have trouble breathing.
  - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
  - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
  - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
  - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like TRUVADA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems.**
  - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
  - Your urine turns dark.
  - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
  - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
  - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
  - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog medicines, like TRUVADA, for a long time.
- **TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection.** Patients infected with both HBV and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) who take TRUVADA need close medical follow-up for several months after stopping treatment with TRUVADA. Follow-up includes medical exams and blood tests to check for HBV that could be getting worse. **Patients with Hepatitis B Virus infection, who take TRUVADA and then stop it, may get "flare-ups" of their hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.**

What is TRUVADA?

TRUVADA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NRTI). TRUVADA contains 2 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, or tenofovir DF) combined in 1 pill. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with HIV infection. TRUVADA is for adults age 18 and older. TRUVADA has not been studied in children under age 18 or adults over age 65.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

TRUVADA helps block HIV reverse transcriptase, a chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV to multiply. TRUVADA lowers the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). TRUVADA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4 cells). Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

TRUVADA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of TRUVADA are not known at this time. People taking TRUVADA may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium complex* (MAC) infection. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking TRUVADA.**

TRUVADA does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take TRUVADA?

Do not take TRUVADA if you are allergic to TRUVADA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of TRUVADA are emtricitabine and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** We do not know if TRUVADA can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if TRUVADA is right for you. If you use TRUVADA while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can be on the TRUVADA Antiviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV positive because of the chance of passing the HIV virus to your baby. Also, it is not known if TRUVADA can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **have bone problems.**
- **have liver problems including Hepatitis B Virus infection.**

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- COMBIVIR®, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM™, TRIZIVIR®, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with those medicines.**
- Drugs that contain didanosine (VIDEX®, VIDEX EC®). Tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) may increase the amount of VIDEX in your blood. **You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and VIDEX together.**
- REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate) or KALETRA® (lopinavir/ritonavir). These medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of TRUVADA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. You may need to be followed more carefully if you are taking TRUVADA and REYATAZ or KALETRA together.

Keep a complete list of all the medicines that you take. Make a new list when medicines are added or stopped. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacist **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription.

How should I take TRUVADA?

- Take TRUVADA exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed it. Follow the directions from your healthcare provider, exactly as written on the label.
- The usual dose of TRUVADA is 1 tablet once a day. TRUVADA is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you have kidney problems, you may need to take TRUVADA less often.
- TRUVADA may be taken with or without a meal. Food does not affect how TRUVADA works. Take TRUVADA at the same time each day.
- If you forget to take TRUVADA, take it as soon as you remember that day. **Do not** take more than 1 dose of TRUVADA in a day. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time. Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of TRUVADA or your anti-HIV medicines.**
- When your TRUVADA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to TRUVADA and become harder to treat.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking TRUVADA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking TRUVADA.
- If you take too much TRUVADA, call your local poison control center or emergency room right away.

What should I avoid while taking TRUVADA?

- **Do not breast-feed.** See "What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA?"
- **Avoid doing things that can spread HIV infection** since TRUVADA doesn't stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.
  - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
  - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.**
  - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- COMBIVIR, EMTRIVA, EPIVIR, EPIVIR-HBV, EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or VIREAD. **TRUVADA should not be used with these medicines.**

What are the possible side effects of TRUVADA?

TRUVADA may cause the following serious side effects (see "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?"):

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your doctor right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See "What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA?")
- **"Flare-ups" of Hepatitis B Virus infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you stop taking TRUVADA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping TRUVADA if you have both HIV and HBV infection. TRUVADA is not for the treatment of Hepatitis B Virus infection.
- **Kidney problems.** If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** It is not known whether long-term use of TRUVADA will cause damage to your bones. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density.

Other side effects with TRUVADA when used with other anti-HIV medicines include:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking TRUVADA and other anti-HIV medicines. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

The most common side effects of EMTRIVA or VIREAD when used with other anti-HIV medicines are: dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, depression, rash, and gas. Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with TRUVADA.

These are not all the side effects of TRUVADA. This list of side effects with TRUVADA is **not complete** at this time because TRUVADA is still being studied. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider right away. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

How do I store TRUVADA?

- **Keep TRUVADA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store TRUVADA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep TRUVADA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicines away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about TRUVADA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use TRUVADA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give TRUVADA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about TRUVADA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about TRUVADA that is written for health professionals. For more information, you may also call 1-800-GILEAD-5 or access the TRUVADA website at www. TRUVADA.com.

Do not use TRUVADA if seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of TRUVADA?

Active Ingredients: emtricitabine and tenofovir DF

Inactive Ingredients: Croscarmellose sodium, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, and pregelatinized starch (gluten free). The tablets are coated with Opadry II Blue Y-30-10701 containing FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

Rx Only

January 2005

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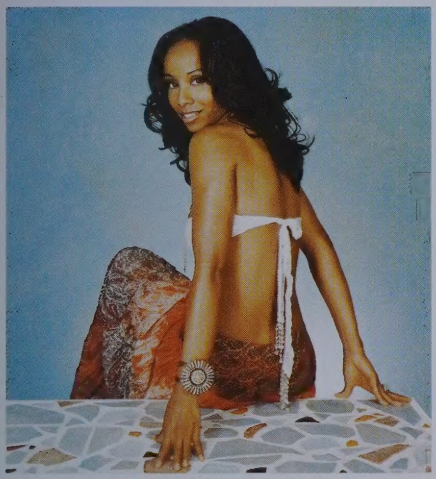
The Performers

Vivian Green

With the release of her new album, Vivian, the contemporary R&B singer/songwriter Vivian Green broadens the promise of her critically-acclaimed debut, A Love Story, with 12 irresistible new songs written, sung, and co-produced by Vivian Green.



Vivian finds the artist acknowledging the complexities of love – from transcendent passions to poignant, yet liberating realities – in a series of lush musical settings evoking the vibe of classic soul music while showcasing a hard-won independence and fun-loving sensibility uniquely her own.

On songs like "Gotta Go, Gotta Leave (Tired)" "I Like It (But I Don't Need It)," and "Frustrated," Vivian shares the lesson that love, no matter how perilous, can open the door to self-awareness and personal empowerment.

"I don't want anyone to think I'm heartbroken," she confesses. "When I was writing my first album, there was a lot of sadness going on there, but this one is different. Even the breakup on this record is not sad, this is happy, it's all good, I'm not on a rollercoaster."

Like her debut, which achieved RIAA gold status in May 2003, Vivian maintains its sublime consistency while complementing the singer's bold candor and vivid depictions of emotional truths. And yet, she seems even bolder than on her debut, wiser in the ways of the world, yet more playful in her ability to enjoy the joys of a life lived to the fullest. "I really tried to reinvent myself," she offers. "This album is more youthful and more fun and not-so melancholy and jazz-oriented as the first one."

Her extraordinary melodic range and deceptively understated vocal delivery blend into the album's translucent production and sophisticated arrangements to redefine the contours of R&B and soul music on tracks like "All About Us," "Sweet Thing," and "Can't Say It Enough." Her collaborations with producer Scott Storch – "Mad" and "Wish We Could Go Back" – show her natural ability to merge modern hip-hop and R&B elements into music that rings comfortable and new at the same time.

Released in November 2002, Vivian's debut album, A Love Story, announced the arrival of a major new star on the contemporary music scene. The New York Times praised her "Subtle acute timings" and "the disarming directness" of her voice while People found the album "A perfect showcase for her nuanced, never-oversung vocals."

Her live performances proved equally compelling with Vibe covering a Manhattan nightclub gig: "Her rapport with the audience is both engaging and intimate, and her voice pierces every corner of the room."

Her rendition of Billie Holiday's "Love For Sale" in 2004's "De-Lovely" was a highlight of the Cole Porter biopic. USA Today praised Vivian's ability to "mine the bittersweet yearnings" of the song while Fox News singled out Vivian in its "Ones To Watch In 2005: Music" feature, calling her version of "Love For Sale" a "smash."

While A Love Story announced the arrival of a major new talent, Vivian establishes Vivian Green as one of contemporary R&B's brightest lights.

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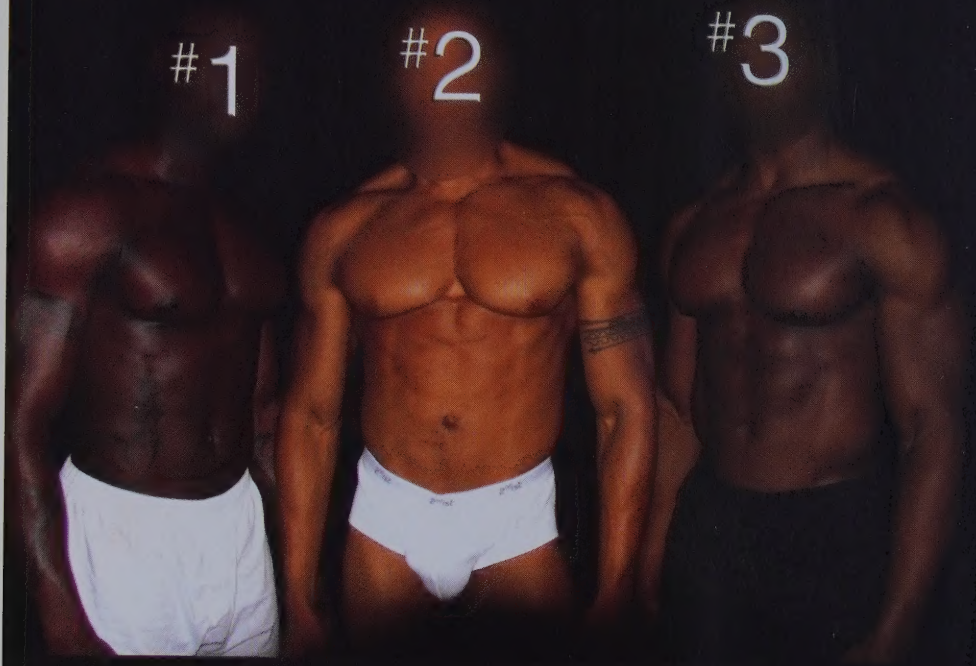
Number one knows the location of every gym

Number two knows how to maintain a six pack

Number three can bench 275lbs

All three know their HIV status



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Deborah Cox

For some artists, the challenge of topping past success could be more than a daunting task. For Deborah Cox – whose platinum and gold-filled career has propelled her to frontline status as an internationally successful pop-soul female vocalist —the answer is clear: "I didn't have any expectations going from one album to the next. I'd say the beauty of working on my third record is that I didn't feel any pressure to top what I had done before. As a result, I wrote more songs for this record than I've written before so this is my most personal album to date..."

"Clive (Davis) and I have really become partners in working on each of my albums. In the past, we would have put the word out that I was recording and we would look for producers and songwriters to submit songs. Then Clive and I would decide what was right for the album. We didn't use that same method this time. This album evolved through the writing sessions I had with some of the producer friends I've made in this industry. Making this record was more organic, honest and spontaneous..."

The result is that Deborah's third album demonstrates a new level of creativity, brimming with songs that speak to personal experiences, expressing her own truth about love and relationships. With complete candor, the soulful singer shares, "Take the title track, "The Morning After", it's about someone who ends up sleeping with her best (male) friend. Yes, I did that...and we ended up together (NOTE: DC said "married"). We were friends for years and one day, I just started looking at him in a different way. What did I do? Well...," Deborah pauses, "I told him I had feelings for him...and much to my surprise, he told me he felt the same way... In the song, it isn't resolved the same way but it's about something that does happen between people and they wake up the next morning and wonder, 'what do we do now?'"

In the tradition of powerhouse ballads that allow Deborah to display her amazing vocal skills, THE MORNING AFTER includes "Play Your Part," written and produced by Shep Crawford who was responsible for Deborah's million-selling single "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here" which broke all records by spending fourteen weeks at No. 1 on Billboard's R&B charts after its release in 1998. "Shep wrote "Play Your Part" specifically for me. Originally, "Nobody's Supposed To Be Here" was for Patti Labelle but I'm glad I got it! Now Shep is familiar with my vocal range so when we work together, we have a real chemistry... it's like we 'go to church' when we record!"

Deborah explains that including dance remixes on her album was essential given the reaction to "Absolutely Not," a cut she originally recorded for the 2001 J Records soundtrack of "Dr. Dolittle 2." The track, remixed by Hex Hector, became a major international dance music hit and is included on THE MORNING AFTER. Its success further expanded the club audience established with the Hex Hector remix of "Things Just Ain't The Same," a tune that started out on the "Money Talks" soundtrack in 1997 and was later included on "One Wish," Deborah's platinum sophomore set. "Those dance remixes definitely broadened my fan base and I started developing a major following in the gay community.

Deborah's career has been filled with such accomplishments, accolades and achievements since the release of her impressive 1995 debut album. Signed to Arista Records by then-label President Clive Davis, Deborah brought a decade of honing her vocal skills, as a teenager growing up in Toronto, Canada.

Although her original interests were in journalism, poetry and sports (specifically track and field), Deborah's passion for music was sparked by hearing Gladys Knight sing "Help Me Make It Through The Night" when she was six years old. Fortunately, the Cox household's love for music allowed Deborah to be exposed to such artists as Aretha Franklin, Al Green, Bob Marley and pioneers like Billie Holiday and Dinah Washington. Attending the Claude Watson School For Performing Arts, Deborah excelled in music, dance and drama and after winning a local television talent show at age eleven, she began singing commercial jingles and working at clubs with local bands. "I think I was

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probably the busiest student in school," Deborah recalls. "I'd finish at a club around 1:00 and have to get up for school or exams the next day. It was hectic but I really enjoyed performing..."

Deepening her commitment to humanitarian causes, Deborah traveled to Uganda and Mozambique for "World Vision" on what she describes as a "life-altering trip that impacted me personally in a profound way," raising awareness for the organization's child sponsorship efforts and co-hosting its annual telethon.

Nappy Grooves

"The Bay Area's Own Black Drag King Troupe"
Contact: Micia Mosely (510) 451-0929
nappygrooves@yahoo.com

Nappy Grooves is an all Black drag king troupe founded in 2003. Based in Oakland, California these brothas have a mission to give anti-racist, feminist, fiercely political, fun, funky drag. They have performed at Women's Weekend in Guerneville, CA and 4th annual Homo Hop festival in Oakland, CA.

They are looking forward to performing at The San Francisco Dyke March and San Francisco Gay Pride.

Tyrone Peaches (Nia Hamilton) is the flipped thug version of Pretty Ricky. Roscoe Dirty – Dirty (Nia Hamilton) is an in you face dirty ol'man with a raunchy southern flow. Nefarious Vulvaleen (Nia Hamilton) is sexy seductive, voluptuous and vicious, flogging bad bois into shape. Mo'Nuff (Micia Mosely) hails from Brooklyn, NY and is always working for the revolution. Sweet Switch (Mahasin Munir) is healthy, conscious, and funny. This Virgo is constantly switching it up sweetly. Peace. Bill Dagger (Matt Richardson) Old G Scorpio from New York, managing the finances and the fine asses, Randy Trade (Matt Richardson) always has a book in one hand and a cute guy in the other. Ginger Snatch (Matt Richardson) is a good girl with a bad attitude. Cornbread (Patricia Hemphill), the newest member of Nappy Grooves, coming straight out of Texas, bringing you that southern flava.

Martha Wash

"I stand alone in the eye of the storm. Pressures all around, tryin' to wear me down. But it's alright, I won't give up the fight. I said, 'Lord, lift me up!' Let me rise above. Nobody's gonna take my pride, I won't stop, I will not be denied".

True words from the legendary Martha Wash. Like many artists, Martha Wash has felt the ups and downs of the rollercoaster-like industry called music. From performing the unaccredited powerhouse vocals behind C+C Music Factory's classic "Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)" to seeing her debut solo single "Carry On" reach the #1 spot – in her own name – Martha has unquestionably made her mark in music history.

Beginning her musical journey in the late 70's as one half of the disco group Two Tons of Fun, Martha found herself singing with the incomparable Sylvester. Twenty-some years later, fans still

continued on page 44

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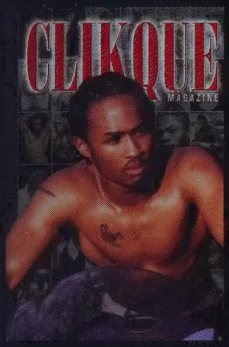

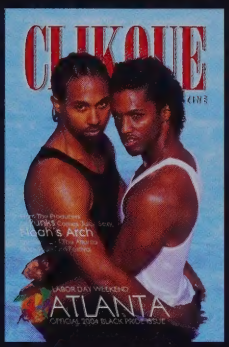

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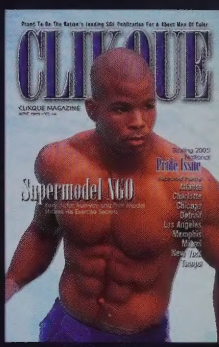

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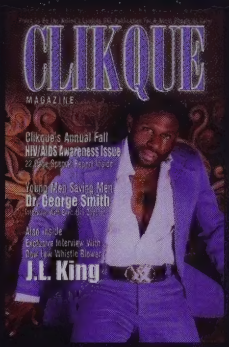

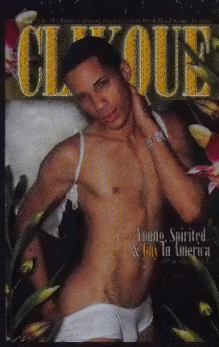

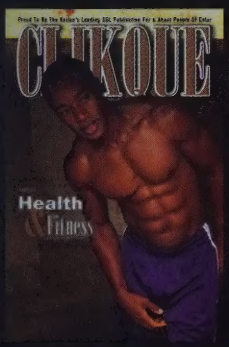

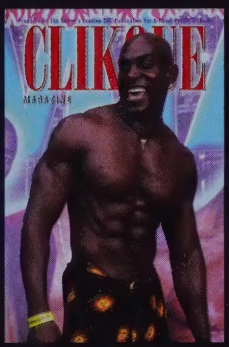

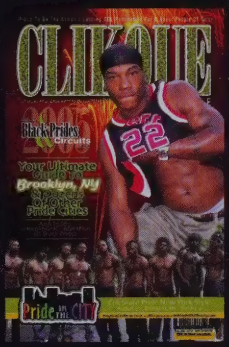

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speak of how extravagant and over the top their shows were! Sylvester's strong, high-piercing voice rang loud and clear over the massive band sound while swooping through the horns and guitar sounds, Two Tons added the icing on the cake with their booming vocal harmonies.

In the early 80's Two Tons of Fun proudly declared, "Hi, we're your Weather Girls" and a new talent emerged onto the scene. As part of the Weather Girls, Martha scored a Grammy Nomination for a song that was destined to become a cult classic. Yes, "It's Raining Men" – the original song that confirmed it was time to leave your umbrellas at home, rip off the roof and stay in bed. Martha continued to sing with the Weather Girls until the late 80's when she felt it was time to move on to the next tenure of her career.

Over the next few years, into the early 90's, Martha became one of the most sought after session singers and soon found herself recording for numerous acts – Seduction and C+C Music Factory to name a few. From "You're My One and Only (True Love)" to the already mentioned "Everybody Dance Now", Martha was all over radio airwaves and had club-goers moving to her distinct vocal styling.

In 1993 Martha took control of her voice with her first solo CD release which produced three #1 dance singles. "Carry On", "Give It To You", and "Runaround" all sky rocketed to the top of the charts. There was no longer any doubt that it wasn't the "more marketable image" that made earlier groups so successful, but rather Martha's incredible sound.

DJ Todd "The God" Terry knew from day one that the way to have a number one single was to have a good melody, good lyrics, and a great voice. He immediately called upon Martha and teamed her up with Jocelyn Brown to have their immense talents on his "Keep On Jumpin" and "Something's Goin' On" singles. Seeing both songs hit number one with her own name attached was something that Martha was now beginning to grow accustomed to and it wasn't going to stop there.

Triumph continued to follow Martha with her second solo CD in 1997. "The Collection" featured highlights from her twenty year long career as well as the new singles, "Come", "Catch The Light", and "It's Raining Men...The Sequel" which featured Martha singing alongside Rupaul.

It's been a long and bumpy road for Martha, one that's lead her to pain and heartache as well as love and joy. One thing for sure is that her music continues to spread a positive message to unite people worldwide. Whether she is belting out a house groove or delivering a church-inspired gospel piece, her music captures our hearts and flows through our souls.

Jocelyn Brown

Jocelyn Brown is a woman with a powerful, soul shaking voice that reaches out with extended arms and engulfs your musical desires.

"I Got The Power" a sample of Jocelyn's voice on Snap Inter-national's single "The Power", totally astonished the artist herself when arriving in a club for a performance and hearing her voice repeatedly. She witnessed, first hand, the audience's response to the powerful vocals featured on the hit. "I think it is great that people love and use my voice," says Jocelyn, "as long as I can make people happy with it, I feel like I am doing my job!"

And doing her job she is! In fact this seasonal musical veteran began singing at the age of three in church, and at gigs with her family. She gained national attend with the release of her debut album from Warner Brothers Records, "One From The Heart" in 1984. With cuts produced by Jellybean Benitez and the teams of Hubert Eaves, James Batton and Russ Titleman/Rob Mounsey, Jocelyn featured eight powerful hits that include "Love's Gonna Get You" and the perennial club classic, "Somebody Else's Guy" written by Jocelyn and her sister Annette.

continued on page 46

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The Performers

However, as modest as she is, Jocelyn has established quite an impressive portfolio working with stellar names such as the late Luther Vandross, Bette Middle, John Lennon, Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson, Roberta Flack, George Benson, Teddy Pendergrass, Culture Club, Masters At Work, and many others.

She is also noted as being one of New York City's premier jingle artist, and has been associated with several television and radio campaigns for companies and products which include McDonalds, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Vicks/Nyquil, Bell Atlantic Telephone, Sprite, Coca-Cola, Dr. Pepper, Pepsi, Welch's Grape Soda, A&P Supermarkets, American Express, Mediprin, Jell-O Pudding, Maxwell House, and others. Jocelyn has also been featured on many film soundtracks such as Disney's "Hercules" and "Lilo and Stitch", and has appeared on "Saturday Night Live."

Jocelyn's own recent material demonstrates her ability to diversify her talents, since she produces it herself with collaborations from other talented UK and US producers and musicians, for her production company, It's All Good Music, Ltd. This personal work, combined with Jocelyn's musical talents is compelling evidence of this artist's magical appeal both behind the scenes and on stage.

Despite the acclaim garnered by her debut album, Jocelyn remains level-headed and grateful for her musical talents. "I don't really think about being a 'star', she insists, 'if that is going to happen, then it's in God's hands and I think him for all his blessings. I've worked with some talented musicians, producers, super performers, radio and television presenters and most of the best DJ's in the world."

Pepper MaShay

Pepper MaShay exploded on the dance scene in the summer of 2000 (what people don't realize, is that she has been lucky enough to work every weekend since) with her mega smash hit "Dive in the Pool" (the un-official theme song from Showtime's Queer As Folk & best described as the "It's Raining Men" of the 21st Century). This song has truly taken her to all ends of the earth, including Singapore, Hawaii, Israel, Puerto Rico, Japan and the Philippines. She followed up with the Billboard dance chart toppers "I Got My Pride" (from Queer As Folk & Sex In the City) and "You and Me (Feels So Good)" (Queer As Folk). Pepper's last single, on the Cetacean Records label was called "I Can't Stop."

In the late Spring of 2005, Pepper is scheduled to release her highly anticipated full-length CD called "SOS" (which stands for "Singer of Songs"). She has gathered many of the top Grammy Award winning writers. On February 14, 2004, Pepper and Colton Ford (the former Adult Video Star and vocally trained singer) released the Stevie Wonder classic, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered". A major video for this song was released in mid. February as well. The remixes for this anthem song, are by Ralphie Rosario (which is slamming), Mac Quayle, and Solar City, and are available at all major music outlets.

Get Your Pride On
Pride IN THE CITY
2005

August 6, 2005

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to send greetings to all gathered this year to commemorate with People of Color in Crisis, Inc. (POCC) during Pride in the City 2005 Celebration.

I commend POCC for their commitment to the community. It is always gratifying to unite with those who share our dedication to making a difference in this society and improving the quality of life for all.

Once again, thank you for your determination and dedication. Best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Letitia James

Letitia James
Member of City Council

"The Roadmap for Research Paved by Black Gay Men"

In the spring of 2001, a pivotal event took place. A group of Black gay men of diverse professional and educational backgrounds met in the apartment of Gary English, Executive Director of People of Color in Crisis, Inc., (POCC) to conduct the first of many informal discussions about the current state of research and scholarly work being produced by and about Black MSM.

These conversations highlighted some disturbing facts:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) have represented the largest proportion of people who have been infected with HIV in the US. Yet, while the overall rates of HIV infection have recently decreased among MSM (gay, bisexually, or heterosexually identified men who have sex with men), for the first time since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, Black MSM outnumber White MSM in newly diagnosed cases of HIV and AIDS.
- Recent research also has shown that HIV-infected people are susceptible to salient health risks including increases in viral load, re-infection with drug resistant strains of HIV, acquiring other sexually transmitted infections, and acquiring other viruses that lead to opportunistic infections.
- Black MSM have experienced substantial health disparities and, as a result, are at a substantial risk for enduring adverse health complications due to engaging in HIV risk-taking behaviors.

Unfortunately, research undertakings designed to add new knowledge to the above which could serve as the foundation for structuring effective intervention strategies were nonexistent or based on studying the sexual behavior of White, HIV-gay and bisexual men. Furthermore, there had been limited attention to assessing efficacy of culturally based interventions targeted toward MSM of color.

Recognizing the gaps in knowledge on and about Black MSM, the group agreed to formalize their discussions. The first formal planning meeting of the Black Gay Research Group (BGRG) was held on September 22, 2001. The discussion centered on what is research and why the need for a Black gay research body. The members unanimously agreed that a research group should be formed and identified four intentions that would serve as the framework for the research group's "raison d'etre." They were:

- To sponsor a Research Summit focusing on Black gay men;
- To establish a research agenda which would evolve from the summit, which would examine life stages of Black gay men socially, spiritually, economically, and psychologically;
- To publish a research report that serves as a compendium of research papers drawn from the summit presentations that is reflective of current research directions on Black gay life; and
- To create a sustainable research activity that continuously identifies, explores and promotes innovative program interventions within the Black gay community.

Thus the research summit served as the focal point for BGRG activities over the next two years. The members envision that the summit would be the launching point for subsequent roundtable discussions, academia/community research collaborations, and potentially serving as a data source for

For information on the **Black Gay Research Group** and the **Black Gay Research Summit** please visit our web site: www.BlackGayResearch.org

federal and state policy development and analysis.

Comprised of researchers, educators, and representatives from black gay agencies and programs geared toward black gay men/ MSM from New York City, BGRG members volunteered their time and resources to produce the first research summit. This sustained commitment resulted in the first Black Gay Research Summit, co-sponsored with POCC, held on July 31- August 2, 2003. The Summit brought together over 150 researchers, service providers, students and other professionals who shared knowledge about research and innovative programs being implemented by and on behalf of Black MSM. The meeting featured presentations and discussions of current research and community practices and exchanges among personnel from government agencies, community organizations and research institutions aimed at strengthening partnerships and shaping future research.

Following Summit 2003, BGRG assessed the outcomes of the research summit and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the development of a research agenda for black gay men. Clearly the members did not want the research summit to be the only deliverable. Therefore BGRG proposed to sponsor "town hall" meetings where, on a quarterly basis, researchers and community based organizations could come together and have roundtable discussions on varied topic related to the black gay male's experience. They also committed to sponsoring a second research summit in 2005.

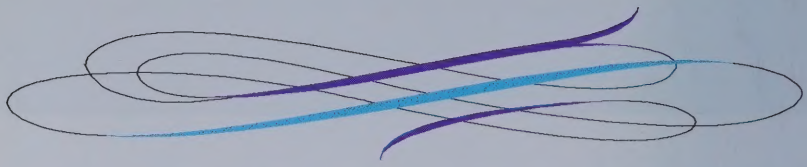
In December 2004, BGRG, after a six-month hiatus, chose to reinvent itself and identify a work plan for 2005. The product of this conversation was reframing BGRG as a Think Tank for the Black gay community committed to the following:

- Creating a space for the identification of black gay issues;
- Establishing Black gay research principles;
- Producing publications and manuscripts;
- Developing networks committed to Black gay research issues;
- Sponsoring research undertakings within community agencies and academia; and
- Supporting "cross fertilization" between policy development, activism, and research.

As with the initial formation of the research group, The Second Black Gay Research Summit scheduled for August 3-5, 2005: *Untying Tongues: Black Gay Men in Research, Service and Scholarship,* will serve as the launch pad to make the BGRG's mission operational.

The Mission of the Black Gay Research Group

The Black Gay Research Group is a network of Black Gay Men of diverse personal and professional experiences whose mission is to create, promote, implement and maintain a research agenda for the self-actualization of gay men of African decent.



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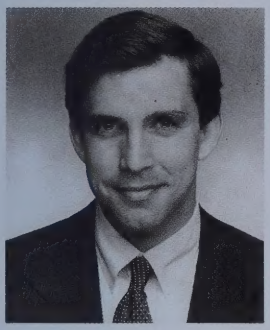


August 6, 2005

Dear Friends:

Greetings to each of you gathered here today at People of Color in Crisis, Inc.'s (POCC) Pride in the City 2005 Celebration.

The "Big Apple," the "City that Never Sleeps," the "Cultural Capital of the World"—Throughout the years, New York has been known by many names to many people. But for those of us who live our lives in this city, it is known first and foremost (and quite simply perhaps) as "home."

New York, of course, wouldn't be the home that it is today without the presence and support of groups such as POCC. Founded in 1988 by a group of African American and West Indian gay men concerned about the lack of HIV/AIDS information being given to the community, POCC has worked diligently over the years to educate New Yorkers about the spread of HIV/AIDS, providing a wide array of support and services to those affected and/or infected by this devastating disease. And its efforts here couldn't be more vital: With the number of reported AIDS cases on the rise in New York City, particularly among communities of color, it is absolutely imperative that we continue to work together to fight—and one day bring an end to—this global epidemic.

In closing, I would like to thank the entire POCC family for all that they have accomplished over the years. You have made this city a much stronger home for each and every one of us, and for that we are all extremely grateful.

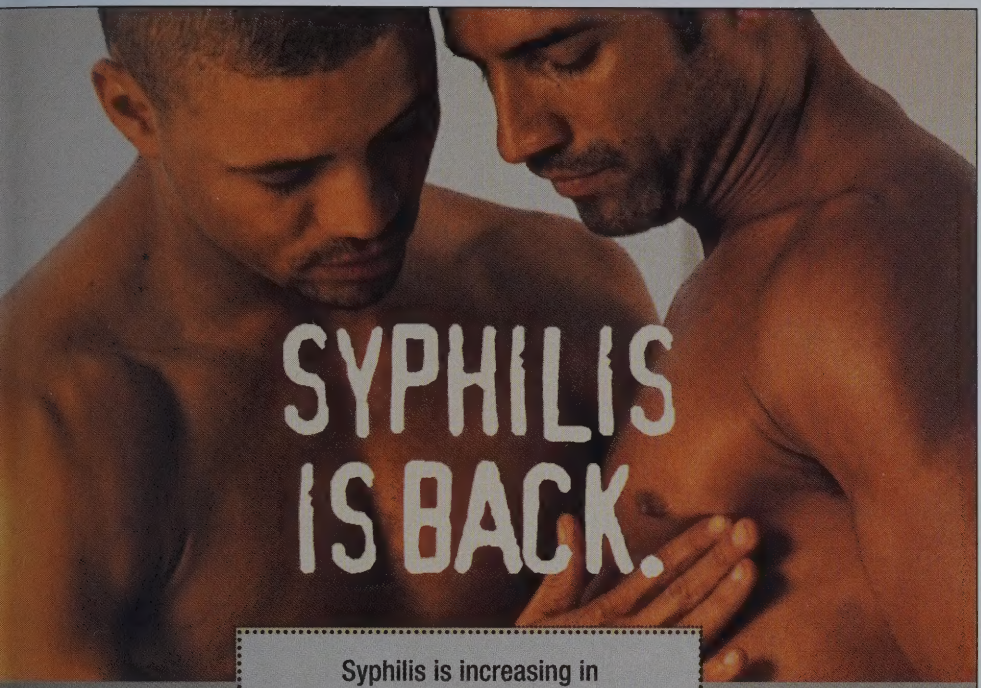
My best wishes to everyone for a wonderful celebration.

Sincerely,

GIFFORD MILLER
Speaker

Congratulations to People of Color in Crisis for its commitment to providing the health and human services to communities in need.

Yours in faith and unity
Assemblyman Roger L. Green



Syphilis is increasing in New York City, especially among men who have sex with men.

Syphilis is a serious sexually transmitted disease (STD). But it is easily curable in most cases with a single shot of penicillin.

Having syphilis makes it easier to become infected with H.I.V. or to spread H.I.V. to others. Left untreated, syphilis can also cause blindness, paralysis, and brain damage.

To find out if you're infected, see your doctor. Or for free testing and treatment, visit a New York City Department of Health clinic. For more information, call 1-800-825-5448, or visit our website at nyc.gov/health.

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We salute People of Color in Crisis for their work to promote awareness of STD and HIV prevention.

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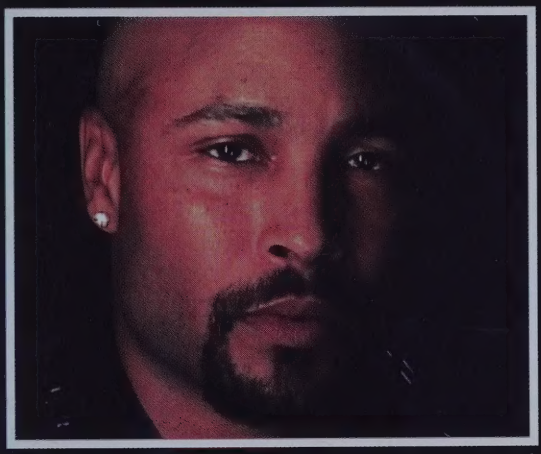

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LGV

By Roderick A. Scott-Padilla

While the African American gay community deals with the threat of violence, racism and homophobia, it is now forced to handle another obstacle that could harm it both medically and physically. Lymphogranuloma Verereum (LGV) is a form of the bacterium Chlamydia Trachomatis that was recently discovered in New York. This disease is both contagious and has debilitating symptoms, but it is curable. However, unlike any other sexually transmitted disease (STD), it may have more adverse complications that relate to the exposure to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). LGV is a disease that is sexually transmitted during vaginal and anal sex. It is most prevalent in tropical and subtropical areas, such as Southeast Asia, Central America and the Caribbean. According to the New York State Department of Health, clinical manifestations include primary symptoms of small non-painful genital lesions, occurring on the penis or vagina, and in the rectum. These symptoms tend to get unnoticed until the infection spreads to the lymph nodes of the groin area and the surrounding tissue. If not treated, following symptoms will include swelling, acute pain, and may lead to draining and bleeding of the infected areas, including painful, bloody rectal infections that may be confused with inflammatory bowel disease. The average incubation or onset period usually happens from 3 to 30 days after exposure. Once infected, the disease can remain within the body until fully treated, just as any other STD.

Treatment includes several types of antibiotics, including Doxycycline and Azithromycin. It has only been recent that the disease became known internationally. The first major report was published on November 5th, 2004 by the Associated Press, which concluded that the Netherlands' Institute of Public Health (IPH) discovered "an outbreak of a rare STD among gay and bisexual men" surfacing the country. Now US Health Officials are up in arms with the finding of LGV as the New York State Health Department and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the presence of the disease in two gay men ("2 Cases of Rare Sex Disease Are Detected in New York", The New York Times, Feb. 3, 2005).

This new phenomenon contributes to a major medical concern affecting the sexual lives of gay men; HIV. Because LGV create external ulcerations on the epidermis layer of skin and mucous membranes of the human body, HIV from infected blood or bodily fluids such as semen could have a greater chance of by-passing scout cells and connecting to CD-4 cells within the body. The Netherlands statistical data arguably suggests the possibility that already being infected with HIV could increase the risk of contracting LGV. According to Marita Van de Laar, the country's IPH spokesperson, of the 92 cases of LGV infected men in the Netherlands, approximately 80 percent were HIV positive.

Yet, to Dr. Sam Mitchell, an epidemiologist from the San Francisco Department of Public Health, there is no indication for alarm in relation to HIV-patients being at higher risk for complications of LGV. Instead, he suggests the opposite, making a connection to

Chlamydia-infected patients and the high risk of contracting HIV due to the ulceration caused by the bacteria. "The idea is to knock it out quickly. If it circulates widely, it could be quite challenging," Dr. Mitchell said. Due to the current rarity of LGV in either country, clinical evidence or data does not exist to support either theory.

So how does the new existence of LGV in America affect our country's Black gay population? Epidemiological findings concluded that all of the Netherlands patients diagnosed with LGV were white (the nation's largest infected ethnic group) and reported risky sexual behavior. Thus, this growing epidemic could have an adverse impact on the ethnic group that accounts for the highest HIV rate in this country; Black America.

The CDC National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention reports that African Americans make up 12.3% of the US population, but they have accounted for 368,169 (40%) of the 929,985 estimated AIDS diagnoses since the epidemic began in this country. In 2003, African Americans accounted for 16,165 (50%) of the 32,048 estimated new HIV/AIDS cases, all being from states with just confidential name-based HIV reporting. Statewide Health Departments are working hard to prevent the spread of LGV.

Free, confidential STD screenings are being offered at health department clinics across the five boroughs of New York. As an immediate precaution, leading health officials encourage city residents, especially members of the gay community, to practice safer sex, and encourage clinical practitioners to be on the look out for any signs of the rare but serious disease. In addition, it is recommended that persons limit their number of sex partners, use latex or polyurethane condoms, and wash genitals after sexual contact. If there are any concerns of exposure or infection, it is recommended that there be an avoidance of sexual contact before visiting a local STD clinic, hospital or doctor. By representing the largest number of HIV infected patients, Black Americans could consider LGV as a new enemy in the journey to a completely healthy race.

For more info about Lymphogranuloma Venereum, please visit the following:

New York State Department of Health:
http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/communicable_diseases/en/lymp.htm

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
http://www.cdc.gov/std/lgv/default.htm

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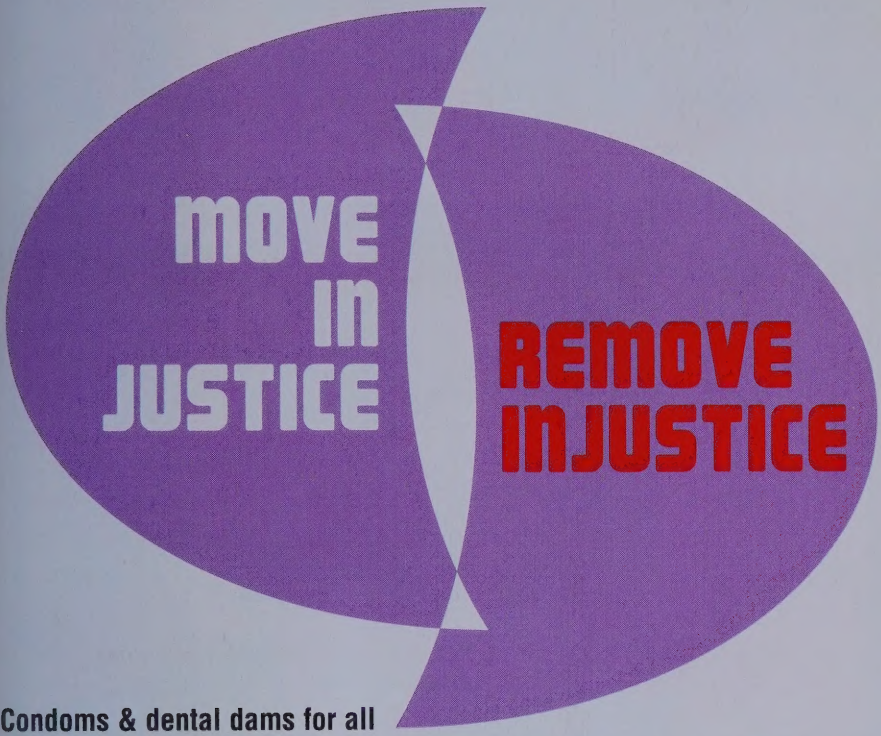
HIV Prevalence, Unrecognized Infection, and HIV Testing Among Men Who Have Sex with Men – Five U.S. Cities, June 2004-April 2005

continued from page 31

sensitive nature of some questions, HIV status might have been underreported during the interview, thereby inflating estimates of unrecognized infections. Third, these findings are limited to men who frequented MSM-identified venues in the five selected cities during the survey period. Although similar rates of HIV incidence were observed compared with previous surveys (2), the limited number of incident cases prevents comparisons by race and age. Finally, data are preliminary and have not been weighted by venue-selection probability.

The 2004 NHBS system was conducted in 17 MSAs with the highest AIDS prevalence. Although this report focuses on testing results from five selected cities, behavioral data are forthcoming from all participating cities. NHBS is an important tool for monitoring the impact of the HIV epidemic and informing prevention efforts.

HIV incidence and prevalence are high among MSM, and many are unaware they are HIV positive. The high level of unrecognized HIV infections among MSM is a public health concern. Persons aware of their HIV infection often take steps to reduce their risk behaviors, which could reduce HIV transmission (9). To increase the proportion of HIV-positive persons who know they are infected, sexually active MSM should be encouraged to have an HIV test at least annually. Corresponding efforts should be developed to address barriers to testing, particularly those related to fear, and to increase the availability of testing in clinical and nonclinical settings (10). Testing programs should target both younger MSM and black MSM to reach populations disproportionately unaware they are HIV positive.



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Violence and the New LGTB Community Context

By Clarence Patton

Clarence Patton is a dedicated, longtime advocate for the Black gay community. He is a former member and chairperson of the POCC board of directors, and is currently both the Acting Executive Director of the New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project (AVP), and the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP). Before arriving at AVP, he was Program Coordinator at the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA), New York State's lesbian and gay lobbying group and political action committee.

Some days it seems as though our community is experiencing two completely different realities. At the same time that at least one state conferred marriage rights on same-sex couples and others instituted the option of civil unions, almost a quarter US states passed outright bans on any official recognition of our relationships.

Even as pop cultural phenomena such as *The L Word, Queer as Folk* and *Will & Grace* continue to be so wildly popular that obligatory lesbian and gay characters have become the new blacks for prime time entertainment, the new US Education Secretary is excoriating *Postcards from Buster* and the Family Research Council is condemning *Sponge Bob Square Pants.*

As schizophrenic as this can all seem, it is in fact the very normal and vigorous – if painful, and at times destructive push and pull of a process that is taking our nation ever closer to full equality and recognition for LGTB people, families and communities.

The true temperature of the hatred and discrimination against lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual people can be taken most easily by charting the number of people calling our hotlines and walking through the doors of organizations like the Anti-Violence Project and others to talk about these experiences.

At the Anti-Violence Project reports of anti-LGTB violence have risen 24% in the last two years.

Recently, there have been a series of high-profile incidents in the City's LGTB communities of color including the brutal murder of 19 year-old Rashawn Brazell, which though it may not have been hate-motivated stunned the community with its senseless violence and galvanized so many community members to respond and begin organizing around that case and other broader issues of violence within and against LGTB communities of color.

In early June, Dwan Prince was the victim of a horrifically violent assault in Brownsville, Brooklyn. We have hope that community response to that and other incidents will enable the Anti-Violence Project, partner organizations around the City and community members to look more critically at the response of our leaders and neighborhood and religious institutions and engage them more proactively in working with the community on issues and cases of violence.

Many of us never think about these issues until a particularly violence and/or highly-publicized one resonates for us. Others of us believe that the occurrence of anti-LGTB hate violence is now a rarity – especially in New York.

In reality, these incidents continue to occur, and occur more and more often both in neighborhoods that have a long-standing and long-established LGTB presence, as well as neighborhoods less known for their LGTB populations, including many of the communities in which LGTB people of color live and work – in Central and Eastern Brooklyn, East and West Harlem, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island.

The assault on Dwan is an all too common occurrence: at the Anti-Violence Project, every 36 hours, we get a report of an anti-LGTB assault in the City. Anti-LGTB incidents happen wherever LGTB people are, and that is everywhere

What's the role of community-based organizations?

Our role is to provide assistance and support for victims and survivors to the best of our ability and capacity; educate and inform the community as best we can, work to provide support for additional community-based responses to violence, and do all that we can to work with the community, community leaders and institutions to expand the number of entities working to mitigate hate violence.

What is the role of any one of us as community members?

Our role is to remain informed, to continue talking about issues of violence both within and against our community before, after and between the high profile incidents that garner widespread community attention. We should also be talking with our friends and neighbors about what roles we can play in developing and/or assisting in grassroots responses to violence.

All of this is more important now than ever.

After the US Supreme Court's landmark decision striking down sodomy laws in Lawrence v. Texas in June 2003, violence targeting our community rose 26% nationally – in New York, it rose 43%.

At the end of April of this year, the Anti-Violence Project released its annual report on hate violence in conjunction with our National Coalition, and it showed that instead of the spike we'd seen in 2003 declining in 2004, the unprecedented high level of violence targeting our community remained about the same in New York, and continued to rise in much of the rest of the country. For anyone paying attention to the election cycle in 2004, this shouldn't be a surprise.

What's most disturbing in this new context for the Anti-Violence Project's work is that a number of long-standing truths about anti-LGBT violence have been shattered over the last couple of years.

Generally, when a major event occurs which causes violence against our community to increase, shortly after that event, the level of violence returns to "normal."

- In June 1994, a month that contained both Stonewall 25 and Gay Games events/celebrations in New York City, there were a record number of incidents reported to the Anti-Violence Project of anti-LGTB incidents.
- Nationally, in March and April 1997, anti-LGTB incidents rose 28% over the same period the previous year. It was during that period that unprecedented attention was given to the "coming out" of actress Ellen DeGeneres and her television character Ellen Morgan.
- During this same time period, a lesbian bar in Atlanta was bombed and received extensive press coverage – particularly since it was suspected that it may have been connected to a similar bombing at the 1996 Olympics the previous summer.

However, that trend appears to no longer be the case: after the attention paid to the Lawrence decision dissipated, anti-LGBT violence to not go down; after the nation absorbed the Massachusetts marriage decision, anti-LGBT violence did not decline; and certainly violence against LGBT people did not decline when one-quarter of states had some sort of anti-same-sex marriage amendment on their ballots and the President persisted in calling for the codification of lesbian and gay second-class citizenship via a federal amendment banning same-sex marriage.

But while some of the truisms about anti-LGTB violence seem to no longer be true, our staff, volunteers, Board, supporters and the community know that one piece of truth still stands: Twenty-five years after our founding, the Anti-Violence Project still represents one of our community's best defense against the violence we face as our enemies attempt to erase all pretense of civility towards LGBT people, families and communities.

LD
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HOTSHOT

PRIDE IN THE CITY

BLACKOUT ARTS SERIES

FRIDAY AUGUST 5

5:00PM TO 11:00PM

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333 ADAMS STREET, BROOKLYN

SUBWAY

2, 3, 4 AND 5 TO BOROUGH HALL STOP
M, N AND R TO COURT STREET STOP

FAMILY DAY PICNIC

FEATURING DEBORAH COX

SATURDAY AUGUST 6

12 NOON TO 9:00PM

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SUBWAY

TAKE THE F TRAIN TO YORK STREET, BROOKLYN.
WALK DOWN YORK (2 BLOCKS) TO NAVY STREET.

THE BEACH EVENT

FEATURING MARTHA WASH

SUNDAY AUGUST 7

12 NOON TO 9:00PM

JACOB RIIS PARK BEACH

FAR ROCKAWAY, QUEENS

SUBWAY

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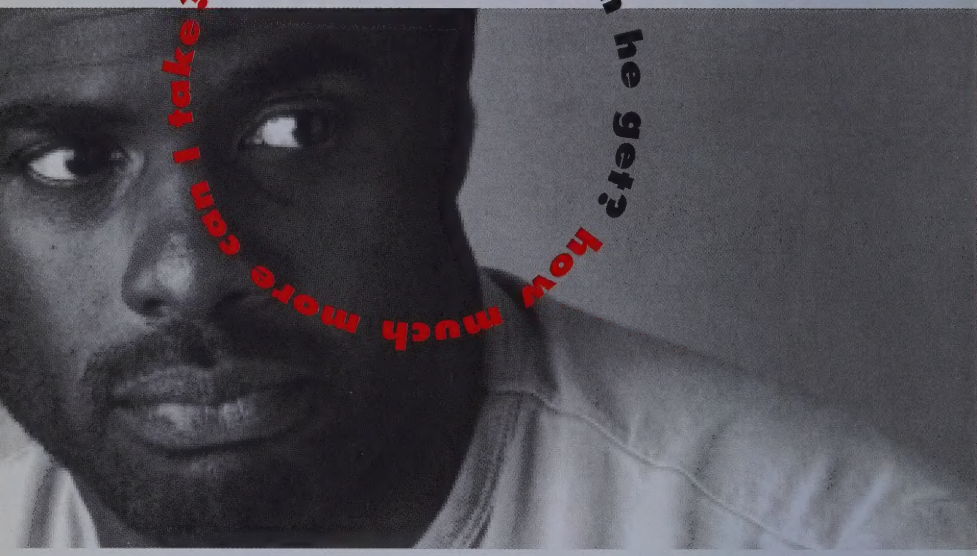

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ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Building a Safer Community for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual People

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Saturday, August 6

The official Saturday Night party for Pride in theCity

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The Official Saturday Night
AfterParty for Pride In the City 2005
Saturday, August 6
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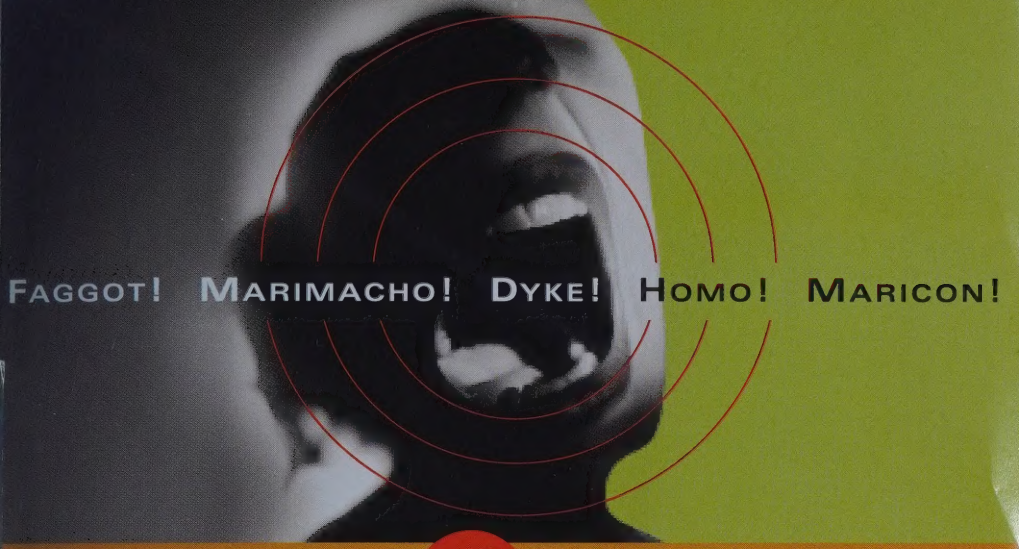
where the boyz can do their thing



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